

Education: G2 pages 12-13

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## Sketch

## Irish ayes, right, left and centre



Simon Hoggart

THE Commons returned to consider the Northern Ireland peace agreement. Mo Mowlam, the Ulster Secretary, praised the work of George Mitchell, General de Chastelain and the former Finnish prime minister, Harri Holkeri, whose magnificent contribution to this treaty had, until now, remained hidden from me.

She then had a word of thanks for the Taoiseach of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, and for his many predecessors, continuing with pats on the back and kisses for Messrs John Major, Peter Brooke, Patrick Mayhew and Michael Ancram.

She also had messages of thanks for various foreign ministers from various countries.

No sooner had she sat down than her Tory shadow, Andrew Mackay, sprang up with congratulations to her, to the Prime Minister, and of course former senator Mitchell.

(I once attended a lunch at which Mr Mitchell delivered a splendid put-down to the then President Ronald Reagan.

"When I was a boy growing up in rural Maine," he said, "I thought that the head coach of the Waterville high school basketball team was more important than the president of the United States."

"Then I came to Washington and learned that I was right."

Next Paddy Ashdown was on his feet. He praised everyone too. Good Friday this month had been the best day since he had been elected to Parliament; indeed his best day for the past 30 years, he

said. He probably thanked President Bill Clinton; several people did.

John Hume stood up and expressed deep gratitude to everyone named as before, adding to the list Mr Ashdown himself, though the Liberal leader seems to have had slightly less to do with the deal than the ex-prime minister of Finland.

Mo returned to the fray and thanked Mr Hume for his thanks. Then David Trimble rose and, with good reason, said that he saw no point in thanking everyone again since they had all been thoroughly thanked until they had thanks coming out of the ying-yang (not his exact words). However, he could not forbear thanking Tony Blair, without whom this agreement could never have been reached.

This was getting like the Bafta awards. One half expected Mo to break down and shout: "You love me, you really love me!" or Mr Trimble to thank his drama teacher, who is gay, or Mr Hume to accept his plaudits on behalf of the oppressed native Americans.

(Wouldn't it be great if one of those award winners who video in their thanks from Los Angeles were to say: "I really, really wish I could be with you tonight, but unfortunately the Baftas are a pointless waste of time.")

The thanks rolled onwards. Mr Hume said: "For three days we worked flat out." Then she thanked Colin Farry, whose son died in the Warrington bombing, and Rita Restorick, whose son was the last British soldier to be killed.

It was left to Mr Trimble to break the mood of lavish self-congratulation. He pointed out that Sinn Féin intended to campaign for a Yes vote in the North of Ireland but a No in the South. It was also planning to "cherry-pick" the agreement, supporting only those bits it liked.

I left with a deep sense of foreboding. Whenever the House of Commons is united it is almost invariably wrong.

## Review

## Celebs are left shaken and stirred

Adam Sweeting

John Barry  
Royal Albert Hall

TO JUDGE by the reaction to John Barry's recent burst of creative activity, which includes a new soundtrack album for Beethoven's Ninth, a film about the composer's life, and an orchestral suite called The Beyondness of Things, you'd think he had just returned from exile on a distant planet.

In fact, Barry has been in steady demand, as he has for nearly 40 years. But, thanks in part to David Arnold's tribute album to Barry's James Bond music, Shaken and Stirred, the 64-year-old composer has suddenly become indescribably hip.

His Albert Hall show triggered a minor celebrity-rush to South Kensington. There was Robbie Williams and Damien Hirst, Gloria Hunniford and Michael Ball, Keith Allen and the bloke who plays Dot Cotton's son in East Enders, Michael Winner showed off his ginger suntan, and Michael Caine played master of ceremonies.

Introducing the James Bond Suite, the climax of the night, Barry thanked the various collaborators he had

worked with during his 007 years — Newley and Bricusse, Hal David, Tim Rice. Then he paused. "Duran Duran... Ah... you can see why I left."

These days, Barry expresses a preference for more lyrical, emotional music than the thriller material with which he made his name, though even the most committed fan must acknowledge that the fabled "John Barry sound" can begin to grate with too much repetition.

However, his finest moments thrill you with both their originality and their familiarity. The first few notes of Goldfinger trigger Technicolor visions of exotic tropical locations, ultra-violence and erotic adventure, while both the James Bond Theme and its noisy sibling, 007, are short-cuts to a million shared celluloid moments.

The Ipcress File, with its louches brass and clanking cymbal, is a masterpiece of sleazy minimalism. The theme from The Knack wouldn't necessarily spring to mind as one of Barry's major achievements, but the performance of it was a riot of jazzy syncopations and thundering big band drumming. Nobody does it better.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday



Trevor Huddleston, pictured on his 80th birthday, was 'a compassionate advocate for the poor', said the Archbishop of Canterbury. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILVER

## Scourge of apartheid dies

Trevor Huddleston, mentor to politicians, clerics and musicians, more than anyone made the fight to free South Africa a world issue, writes Victoria Brittain

ARCHBISHOP Trevor Huddleston, who devoted much of his life to the struggle against apartheid, died yesterday, aged 84.

The archbishop, who received a knighthood in the New Year's Honours for his contribution to bringing about democracy in South Africa, was a founder of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in 1969 and became its president.

His assistant, Jill Thompson, said he died peacefully at 10.30am, in Mirfield, Yorkshire. "He had been feeling ill for the past couple of days and he died of old age."

Bishop Desmond Tutu was among the first to pay tribute. "If you could say anything single-handedly made apartheid a world issue, then that person was Trevor Huddleston. He was my mentor and inspired me and many others. He made sure that apartheid got on to the world agenda and stayed there."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said: "He will be remembered especially for the battles he fought on behalf of the ordinary black South African." He had been "a man of simple lifestyle and a tireless compassionate advocate for the poor and marginalised."

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said: "Bishop Huddleston was a hero to many trade unionists. Many people will feel they have lost a friend."

As a priest of the Community of the Resurrection, Huddleston was posted to South Africa in the early 1940s. He became active in the struggle against apartheid and formed lifelong friendships with leaders such as Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela.

Tambo, the late president of the African National Congress during its long years in exile, told of his astonishment at the

immortalised in some of the best jazz ever written by South African musicians in exile. The greatest of those musicians, Hugh Masekela, was given his first trumpet by Huddleston.

He wrote a book on South Africa, Naught For Your Comfort, 42 years ago — a blistering attack on the Group Areas Act and the Bantu Education Act which gave apartheid its backbone.

After his expulsion from South Africa, he was an inspiration for a generation which worked in Britain for apartheid's overthrow. He founded the Defence and Aid Fund which smuggled in funds to South Africa for the defence of political prisoners and the support of defectors.

As he grew older he seemed to grow fiercer. He would return from visits to Tanzania incensed by the ruthless destabilisation of the region by the apartheid regime. His outrage and oratory filled meetings in the Royal Commonwealth Society hall.

He was an impatient man, and lived to see his ringing pledge to outlive apartheid come true. He was impatient with his allies, too, and drove them hard. Everyone forgave him because he was equally hard on himself. But he liked a good do, too, and at his 75th and 80th birthday parties the singing and the food and drink outlasted the speeches.

The archbishop had a private gentle side, too. He had a gift for communicating with children and was a friend to those he took on after apartheid had wounded them or their parents.

Obituary, page 10



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## Party leaders may team-up in Ulster

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair, William Hague and Paddy Ashdown are planning to campaign together in the Northern Ireland referendum, the first time in British political history that rival leaders will have shared the same platform.

But Downing Street cautioned last night that while Mr Blair welcomed their support, he will need time to focus on the merit of a joint campaign.

An aide to Mr Hague, who made the original proposal to join forces, said the leaders will have to discuss "whether it will be a helpful step for the peace process". He added that he had not heard of any adverse reaction from Northern Ireland.

President Clinton originally planned to visit Northern Ireland just before the referendum on May 22, but this looks increasingly unlikely after Unionists hinted he was interfering in internal affairs.

While the main parties have co-operated in war time and during the European

Community referendum in 1975, such joint campaigning by leaders would be unprecedented.

The Government is keen to build up momentum in the run-up to the referendum but the fragility of the settlement will be tested on Thursday when the Parades Commission decides on the contentious Orange Parade at Drumcree, near Portadown, in July. With compromise difficult, the outcome could inflame either the Orangemen or the residents of the Garvaghy Road in Portadown.

The Parades Commission, set up by the Government to adjudicate on such disputes, yesterday banned Orangemen from marching down the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast on Sunday.

In the Commons, MPs expressed concern about decommissioning and the early release of prisoners. Most of the concern came from Tory MPs who insisted that if paramilitary prisoners were to be released, then the case of two Scots Guardsmen, the only soldiers in jail as a result of the Troubles, should also be reviewed.

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## Diana crash guard quits Fayed job

Luke Harding

TREVOR Rees-Jones, the only survivor of the crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi Al Fayed, resigned from his job with Mohamed Al Fayed's Harrods empire yesterday, amid speculation that he may strike a multi-million pound book deal.

Publishing sources said the bodyguard's unique account of Diana and Dodi's final days together could command an advance of at least £500,000, excluding serialisation and syndication rights which have been estimated at six figures.

In a statement put out by Ian Lucas, his solicitor, Mr Rees-Jones said he wanted to "move forward" with his life following the car crash last August. "It is for this reason that I have decided, with regret, to end my present employment. I wish to thank my employers and Mr Fayed personally for the help and support they have given me through this difficult time."

The 29-year-old bodyguard is known to have been unhappy with the way Mr Fayed bounced him into an interview with the Mirror last month.

Following the paper's serialisation of "the bodyguard's story", Mr Rees-Jones put out a statement making clear he had not been paid for the interview and that as far as he was concerned it was not an exclusive.

Mr Rees-Jones will leave Harrods next month. Mr Fayed accepted Mr Rees-Jones's resignation with regret and sympathised with his position, his spokesman, Peter Willasey, confirmed. "I understand that Trevor must do everything possible in order to make a full recovery and ultimately to put the tragic events of last August behind him," he added.

"His job will remain open should he wish to return." Mr Rees-Jones's departure coincides with the gradual return of his memory, following the crash, which left him with multiple injuries.

Last month he gave his version of events to French investigators. They are said to be losing patience with Mr Fayed's claim that Diana and Dodi were victims of an establishment plot rather than an accident.

Since the accident, which also killed the chauffeur Henri Paul, Mr Rees-Jones has undergone hours of reconstructive surgery. Two months ago the former soldier was well enough to rejoin the Harrods security team working four days a week.

A former soldier who values his privacy, he spends much of his time quietly at home in Oswestry, Shropshire.



Trevor Rees-Jones: months of surgery

## Sad days ahead

Dia McGarvey's death has problems of fight against cancer

There has been a lot of talk about the death of Dia McGarvey, a 29-year-old model and actress, who died of cancer last night. The cause of death was a brain tumour, which had been diagnosed in 1996. McGarvey had been in the hospital for several weeks, and her death has caused a great deal of sadness among her friends and fans.

McGarvey was a well-known figure in the entertainment industry, having appeared in several films and television shows. Her death has raised questions about the early detection and treatment of brain tumours, and the importance of regular medical check-ups.

Her family has asked for privacy during this difficult time, and her funeral will be a private affair. McGarvey's death is a tragic loss to the entertainment world, and her friends and fans will miss her greatly.

Her death has also sparked a renewed interest in brain health, with many people now more aware of the symptoms of brain tumours and the importance of seeking medical advice if they experience any unusual symptoms.

McGarvey's death is a reminder of the fragility of life, and the importance of taking care of our health. It is a sad day for everyone who knew and loved her, and we will miss her for a long time to come.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on mental health, with many people now more open about their struggles with mental illness. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to take better care of our mental and physical health.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on cancer research, with many people now more aware of the importance of funding research into the prevention and treatment of cancer. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to support cancer research and to take better care of our health.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of family and friends, with many people now more aware of the importance of spending time with the people who matter most to them. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to cherish the people we love and to spend more time with them.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of hope, with many people now more aware of the importance of staying positive and hopeful in the face of adversity. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to find hope and meaning in our lives.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of faith, with many people now more aware of the importance of having faith in ourselves and in the power of God. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to have faith and to trust in God's plan for our lives.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of love, with many people now more aware of the importance of loving ourselves and others. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to love and to be loved.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of life, with many people now more aware of the importance of living life to the fullest. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to live life to the fullest and to make the most of every day.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of death, with many people now more aware of the importance of preparing for death. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to prepare for death and to have peace with our Creator.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of heaven, with many people now more aware of the importance of going to heaven. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to go to heaven and to be with God forever.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of hell, with many people now more aware of the importance of avoiding hell. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to avoid hell and to be with God forever.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of judgment, with many people now more aware of the importance of being judged by God. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to be judged by God and to be found worthy of heaven.

Her death has also led to a renewed focus on the importance of salvation, with many people now more aware of the importance of being saved by God. McGarvey's death is a tragedy, but it is also a call to action for us to be saved by God and to be with God forever.

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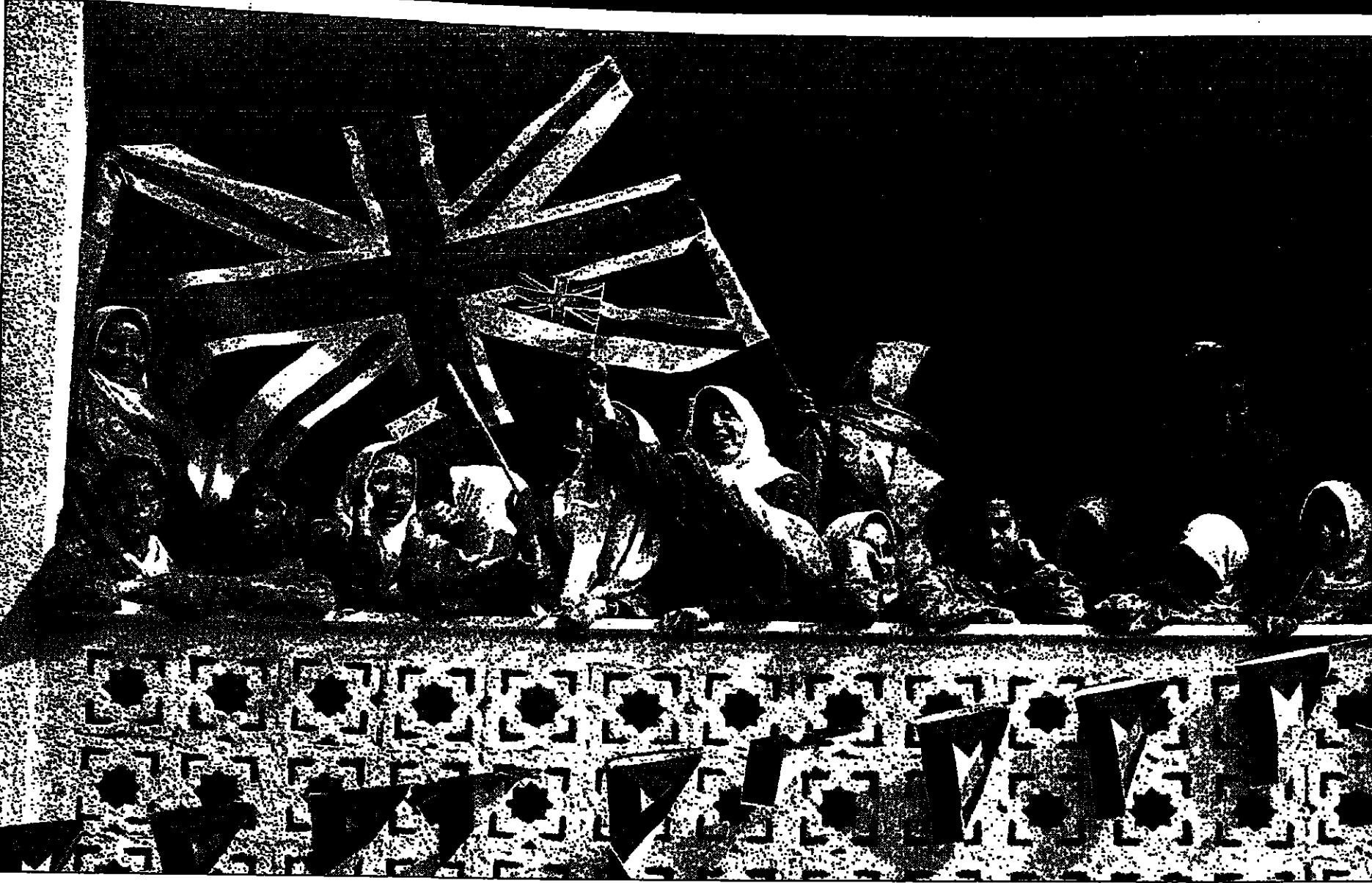
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## Middle East process resumes



Palestinian girls wave Union Jacks during Tony Blair's visit to a school in Gaza. He told them of his hopes for a meeting to hammer out a peace agreement

PHOTOGRAPH: ADEL HANA

# Blair's peace breakthrough

## London talks set for May 4

Lucy Ward in Gaza City and David Sharrock in Jerusalem

**T**ONY Blair hailed a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process last night when American invitations to a meeting in London on May 4 were accepted by the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

After talks with Mr Blair in Palestinian-controlled Gaza, Mr Arafat said his visit had "restored hope" to the Palestinians. "I welcome your invitation to London," he said.

However, serious reservations were still being expressed by Palestinians and Israelis yesterday about whether the London meeting would achieve anything.

Mr Blair has been anxious to stress that his initiative should not "cut across" proposals put forward by the



Mr Blair with Yasser Arafat in Gaza

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDRE DURAND

United States to restart the stalled peace process and accelerate moves towards a final settlement. The talks have been stalled for a year over Israeli plans to build Jewish settlements on occupied land and Islamic suicide bombings.

The Israelis have balked at the US plan for a 13 per cent withdrawal from the West

Bank and a freeze on settlement construction, while Palestinians insist that, contrary to Mr Netanyahu's claims, they are doing everything they can to combat Islamic militants.

"I hope very much in the next few weeks there will be meetings that can take place, whether it's in London or elsewhere, where people can

hammer out an agreement." Mr Blair told school students in Gaza, shortly before Washington formally issued its invitations.

He said the meetings should tackle how the parties could meet outstanding obligations under interim peace deals before moving on to negotiations on a final settlement.

The Israeli and Palestinian leaders are expected to meet separately in London with the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, to discuss the main land-for-peace agenda.

Mr Blair will hold a final round of discussions with Mr Netanyahu today before returning home, his five-day regional tour apparently garlanded with success.

"There is no doubt that people here have been impressed by what we have been able to achieve in Ulster," he said. "It showed to the leaders here that we had something concrete to offer and has helped clear the logjam."

Ahmed Tibi, a senior Arafat aide, accused Mr Netanyahu of playing games. "The prime minister is interested in having as many meetings as possible so that he can come out and tell reporters that there is progress," Mr Tibi told Israeli army radio.

"The point is that the prime minister has to agree to the American proposals on the agenda, on redeployment, on the cessation of unilateral actions, including settlement building."

Mr Netanyahu was non-committal about what ground

the London talks would cover. "We have talked of a number of possibilities. They involve the bilateral working out of problems, but I prefer to wait until Mr Blair has a chance to complete his rounds," he said.

A cabinet statement, however, dampened expectations of a breakthrough at the London meeting. "We are not talking about European mediation or an international conference, but the possibility of a meeting which would take place in Europe," it said.

And Mr Netanyahu's right-wing justice minister, Tzachi Hanegbi, added: "The British are not supposed to be involved in direct negotiations between us and the Palestinians. They would host a meeting and by doing so perhaps gain some prestige which

would not cost us anything." Egypt's foreign minister Amr Moussa summed up the mood of Arab leaders when he said he was sceptical about the value of a London meeting unless Mr Netanyahu accepted Washington's plan.

Israeli policy was only "to enter into circles and waste as much time as possible". The US defence secretary, William Cohen, meanwhile confirmed that Washington is prepared to fund development of a third battery of Israel's Arrow anti-ballistic missiles.

"We want Israel to be strong so that it can continue to take risks for peace," he said.

**Like of the land, page 7; David Sharrock, page 8; Leader comment and letters, page 9**

## Doctors face trial over boy's death

Sarah Boseley Health Correspondent

**T**WO doctors working at Great Ormond Street Hospital have been charged with manslaughter following the death of 13-year-old Richie Williams, who had been recovering from cancer.

Richie died last July, five days after a powerful drug to combat his cancer was wrongly injected into his spine instead of into a vein. The hospital immediately commissioned a critical incident report, which in December found that "several failures in practice" had occurred.

John Lee, aged 34, a specialist registrar in paediatric anaesthetics, and Dermot Murphy, aged 34 a registrar in haematology, were charged after a police inquiry. It is very unusual for members of the medical profession to be prosecuted for deaths in their care.

The doctors, who were on short-term contracts with the hospital, have now moved elsewhere. They were part of a team caring for Richie, who had a very rare form of cancer called T-Non Hodgkin's lymphoma, in which tumours come and go all over the body. He was diagnosed in April last year and was receiving regular chemotherapy as a

day patient at the hospital, while his district hospital catered for his other medical needs.

On July 25, Richie and his mother, from Catford in south-east London, arrived for the last two injections of his course of treatment. The hospital report stated that he was to have received methotrexate in his spine and vincristine in his arm. In the event, both injections went into the spine.

Mrs Williams took her son home, but returned him to the hospital when he became very ill. He died five days later.

The critical incident report made 22 recommendations for changing procedures at Great Ormond Street, which are being implemented.

Yesterday a statement from the hospital said it "would like to reiterate its deepest regret to Richie's family. The hospital has been in close contact with Richie's mother and is offering its fullest support during this difficult time."

It added that it had been co-operating with the police throughout their investigations. The police inquiry was prompted by a coroner's recommendation.

The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children is one of the most famous medical institutions in the country.

## Nice paper, shame about the paint in Pugin apartment

continued from page 1 with built-in mini-spotlights, on which some vulgar, and even obscene, Victorian statuary has been put on display.

Here is a suitably fey Narcissus, and there a naked man with a bristling moustache and gym-toned body fondling a beautiful naked child of indeterminate sex.

This dubious piece by one Edward Stephens is called Shielding the Helms. Perhaps, but any Scottish nanny worth the salt on her morning porridge would have had it removed.

It is, in fact, extremely funny and an example of the naked bad taste that abounds throughout an apartment that one gawper compared to a rather sad railway hotel somewhere north of Perth, only not as good.

This sniping and cynical comparison is helped on its way by the relentless prints of famous and not-so-famous bearded Scotsmen that line the orange-salmon walls.

Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, architect of the Palace of Westminster, was a brilliant decorator. The wallpaper and much of the furniture, original and revived, is superb, but while one applauds the efforts of the Lord Chancellor's department to restore the apartments, awkward compromises between old and new, unlikely clashes of colours, and low-rent details add up to a fusty hodge-podge. Very uncool.

And Pugin, never a designer to mince words, would have set fire to the whole caboodle and insisted m'Lord Irvine start again.

## Sad days along Penny Lane

Linda McCartney's death highlights problems of fight against cancer

John Ezard

**S**HOCK and sadness at the death of Linda McCartney reached yesterday from ordinary people in Liverpool's Penny Lane, where her husband set one of his most ecstatic songs, to charities fighting the cancer which killed her.

In the Liverpool street, Sharon Hampton, aged 30, could not believe the news. "I am very shocked. She was such a brave woman and it has been a long struggle for her."

Louisa Parry, a lane resident, said: "It is so sad for a woman of that age to die of cancer."

That was a reaction everywhere to the passing of a 56-year-old woman whose tough spirit and joint £500 million fortune could not find a treatment to save her.

Last night the McCartney family was in seclusion at their home at Peasmarsh, near Eyn, East Sussex, after flying from a private cremation at their holiday home in Santa Barbara, California.

Linda's death there, on Friday — from a breast cancer which spread to her liver despite intensive treatment and a belief she had recovered — was disclosed on Sunday night. Shortly before her death,

she had received experimental high-dose chemotherapy followed by a bone marrow transplant.

The McCartney family's spokesman, Geoff Baker, said Linda's relapse took the family by surprise as they enjoyed a trip to America.

"There had been no signs of any reversal in her condition and her battle against the breast cancer had appeared to be going well."

Linda had been more active in the last few months than ever and had

recorded at least six of her own songs. Sir Paul McCartney was determined to release these as a tribute to her, Mr Baker said.

"It is a terrible blow", said Delyth Morgan, chief executive of the British charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer, which Linda's daughter Stella helped to set up.

"It is depressing — but there are many women who have fought against breast cancer and won. There are celebrities like Wendy Richard whose experience can offer comfort."

"Britain has one of the best screening services in the world. What we don't have is the basic research work being done into the

disease to make the next breakthrough."

This view is behind Britain's first breast cancer research centre, which the charity will open this autumn at the Royal Marsden hospital, south London, after raising £15 million.

Breast cancer deaths have fallen to just over 1,400 a year in the UK, compared with about 1,500 three years ago.

Anthony Leatham, head of the Breast Cancer Research Group, said: "The cause of Linda's tragic death is secondary spread."

"By the time the lump is detected in the breast, it is likely to have already spread to grow in other organs. That is why our research is focused on secondary spread."

The Vegetarian Society said its National Vegetarian Week, from June 1 to 7, would be held in her honour if the family agreed. Linda's friend, the writer Carla Lane, said Sir Paul wanted only cancer research charities which ruled out animal testing to benefit from donations in memory of his wife.

Last night the charity Animal Aid issued a list of such charities. It included Big C Appeal, Bristol Cancer Help Centre, Caring Cancer Trust, Dr Hadwen Trust, Humane Research Trust, and Roy Castle Cause for Hope Foundation.



Mary Tuite signs a book of condolence opened in Liverpool for Linda McCartney

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANCESCO GILINI

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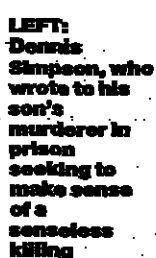
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Grampian's chief constable stood alone in defending the investigation of the murder of Scott Simpson. **Lawrence Donegan** reports



**D**ENNIS and Patsy Simpson have suffered many agonies since their son Scott was murdered nine months ago—but few worse than from the simple words of a letter they received from his killer last week. "He was an unfortunate random choice," wrote Sheela.

The Simpsons had written to Leisk in prison seeking to make sense of their son's senseless death. They "will have found none in the knowledge that it was simply his terrible misfortune to be involved. In a part next to Leisk's lodgings in Aberdeen when the 44-year-old con-

victed paedophile went looking for his victim.

It was July 17 last year. Three days earlier, Leish had sexually molested two boys at his flat overlooking the park and, flushed with success at remaining undetected, approached two other boys, one nine and the other 10 years old. He handed them a note which said, "Hi Kid, if you want some of the latest Mega drive games or any computer games worth \$5 each follow me."

Scott showed two girls the note and said he would be back in 20 minutes. He was never seen alive again.

The boy's disappearance sparked search involving Grampian police and air, sea and mountain rescue teams. One of the areas searched the following day, July 18, was underground around Aberdeen university where Scott's body was eventually found. With all evidence pointing to the fact had he been there, it was clear it had been missed by the police.

This was by no means the biggest mistake of the investi-

gation. In February 1986, Steven Leisk was jailed for 15 months after being found guilty of hypnotising a 15-year-old boy and falsely accusing him. A Falklands war veteran, he already had a criminal record for offences against children.

**He served half his sentence.**

For the offence and was released from Inverness Prison in December 1986 on a supervised release order to protect the public from the risk of serious re-offending. His name was on a list of convicted paedophiles living in the area, and was used by detectives investigating the Simpson case.

But while Aberdeen social work department which was carrying out Leisk's supervision order — had visited him at his home only 10 days before Scott's disappearance, the police had an incorrect address and were unable to track him down.

The inquiry into the social work department's role found that it "inexplicably" that someone with Leisk's criminal record was allowed to move into

accommodation opposite a children's playing field, and that detectives were not informed that such a person was living so close to the place where the murder took place. The trial worker involved has since left the department.

The search for the missing boy continued for four days during which time relatives and neighbours condemned the police for their alleged "high-handedness".

The investigation only ended when a relative of Leisk told the police he would take him to the playing field and contacted police.

Within minutes detectives broke into Leisk's home. Initially, he said he had been working on the day of Scott's disappearance but under interview at police headquarters, he confessed and took of ficers to the lane near the university where the body was found. Leisk covered Leisk and had placed a pair of boxing shorts under the boy's hand.

"The officer who I directed to Scott was able to detect him

without entering the bushes, Lelsk wrote in his letter to the Simpsons. They were there on purpose to infiltrate the body of the body. It was my opinion that the presence of something so foreign to the surrounding colour would be noticed during the search."

Condemned by Scott's family, condemned by the reports into the social work department's report, condemned by the independent police inquiry and, finally, condemned for incompetence by the man who conducted the inquiry in the end, there was no one left to defend the way the case was handled except Gray, the pianist's chief constable.

"I am very proud of the way the officers conducted themselves," Ian Oliver said at the end of the trail which saw Lelsk jailed for life. "We conducted that inquiry in a textbook manner. To suggest that we did anything less than professional and let alone caring and compassionate manner is nonsense."

Dr Oliver said little yesterday to suggest he had changed his mind.

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**Peter Hetherington**

BOY aged 15 who died in a hospital last week, was found unconscious in a police cell, gave several suicide warnings shortly before his death, an inquest heard yesterday.


David Green was found at Hartlepool police station yesterday morning, lying dead around his neck after he had been arrested for burglary. He was the youngest person in Britain to die in police custody in recent years, says the press.

His group, known as the 'suicide boys', wanted to be taken to a police station for tighter security guards for people held by police.

Described by his mother, Barbara as a quiet, shy boy who was experiencing love problems, the hearing heard that David had started playing truant and begun shoplifting. He managed to acquire the tranquilliser drug Temazepam, graduated to taking it, and then decided to fund an expensive habit.

Social workers and police became concerned about his lifestyle and his activities. He was arrested after breaking into a house and being discovered there by the returning owners, Andrew and Linda Jenkins.

Mr Jenkins told the inquest David appeared to be drunk, breaking a hole in the side of the car. Confronted by him in



**...nd banging in his cell in  
...ght**  
PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD RAYNO

of juveniles in police detention and the adequacy and implementation of relevant codes of conduct for police. "Of particular concern is the medical care, monitoring and supervision of David while in the care of Hartlepool police," it added.

Juveniles are generally only allowed to be kept in police cells as a temporary measure while they await transfer to local authority care.

Although Cleveland Constabulary called in the Police Complaints Authority to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death, the request said it was unhappy with the choice of a Cleveland police superintendent to lead the inquiry.

Peter Cooper, a Home Office pathologist who conducted the post mortem, told the inquest that David used a blue cord like that found in a tracksuit bottom to hang himself.

Forensic scientist Julie Marie Evans said documentary evidence showed that Te-mazepam — used to treat insomnia and counter the withdrawal symptoms of heroin — was found in David's blood.

While it could lead to suicidal tendencies and may have been a factor in his death, it was not a direct cause.

The inquest continues today.

**Lawrence Donegan**

**N**O ONE ever accused Gramplan's chief constable, Ian Oliver, of modesty, but surveying the ruins of a once meteoric career, only his enemies would deny he had little cause to be modest.

He was, after all, the youngest chief constable in Scottish police history, the author of two books on criminal justice and a

Dr Oliver has an uncanny knack of garnering enemies; among his peers in the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), his own officers, the press, local politicians and Scottish Office ministers.

tendent with the Northern Irish  
brian force. Two years later,  
he was made chief constable  
of Central Scotland, where he  
quickly gained a public profile  
which far exceeded the size  
of his tiny force.

But in 1982, when he was  
constable, he considered him-  
self an attention-seeking and pion-  
neering (he is deeply religious).

His popularity was not  
helped when he stood out  
against the Thatcherite  
thrust of the Sheehy report  
into the role of the police.

He was moved to Grampian  
in 1986, where he was  
higher profile job, but it  
was not enough to satisfy  
his ambition. He applied  
to become the RUC's chief  
constable and, when  
rejected, wrote to the then  
Northern Ireland secretary  
of State, Frank Hawley, asking  
that he overrule the  
decision.

Meanwhile, morale in his own force was in free fall. There was outrage in 1961 when he announced random drug tests for officers. A steady drip of anti-Oliver stories were leaked to the press; one anonymous letter accused him of using "brutal force" to remove a man from his own premises over an allegation he vehemently denied.

"My professional and personal integrity remain intact," he said after being reprimanded by the Scout Office for being on "business" to Taiwan where he had been on an extraordinary mission to the case was published this year.

Two days later, he was photographed in an Aberdeen park in an embrace with a married woman 30 years his junior and a member of his evangelicalist church.

**Stuart Miller**

**T**HE lawyer for families of the victims of the world's worst *E. coli* food poisoning epidemic said yesterday – as the public inquiry into the outbreak got under way – that his clients merely wanted to discover the truth.

At least 20 people are thought to have died during the outbreak in central Scotland which began in November 1996. Hundreds of others became ill.

A criminal prosecution at Hamilton sheriff court against John Barr, owner of the Lanarkshire butcher,

**shop** implicated as the source of the outbreak was thrown out last year because of a lack of corroborative evidence, but the company was fined \$2,250 after admitting breaching food safety laws.

Paul Santoni, a solicitor representing many of the relatives, told reporters yesterday that the company was "not happy" if it is found that it will be absolutely delighted. It is also "we want — just the truth."

The inquiry heard evidence from the daughter of Annal Craigie, who died at her home in Bonnybridge, 28 Strirling shire, on November 26, 1996.

In a written affidavit, Linda Blair, a teacher who was un-

able to attend the inquest on medical grounds, said she had found her mother, aged 70, lying dead on the floor. She had told Mrs Blair two days earlier that she had been suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting since November 22.

By the morning of November 24, 26 November 1996, her mother appeared very unwell and in particular her speech was slurred, she was pale and she was unable to concentrate," the affidavit said.

The elderly woman's doctor was called and considered that her mother should remain at home and samples would be taken for testing.

Mrs Cragie slept for most of

that day and her daughter visited her on separate occasions to check on her. But when she went at around 7pm she found her lying dead on the floor. She was later told she had been suffering from an *E. coli* O157 infection, the inquiry heard.

Craigie was in the habit of eating a cold meat sandwich every day and after her death packets of cold cooked meat bought from a Scottisd store in Bonnybridge were found in her fridge.

The inquiry, being held in Motherwell under Sheriff Principal Graham Cox, is expected to hear from 150 witnesses and last three months.

## News in brief

### THREE Algerians charged

**THREE** Algerians charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act have been released on bail after being in jail since last summer.

At the request of the Guardian, an Old Bailey judge yesterday partly lifted reporting restrictions covering Sofiane Kebilene, Farid Boukemiche, and Sofiane Souidil.

Judge Henry Pownall QC ruled it could be reported that because of delays in presenting evidence to the defence, he had rejected a prosecution request for the three to remain in custody. He set their trial, due last month, for October.

— *Richard Norton-Taylor*

**THREATS** of violence were made yesterday at a meeting in the St Paul's district of Bristol over the possibility of a convicted child killer living in a local bail hostel.

Sidney Cooke, aged 71, is being held in a West Country

## drowned by jeers as she told

drowned by jeers as she told local people that Cooke was free because he had served his sentence, but her staff would make sure he had no opportunity to re-offend.

Her audience screamed back at her that Cooke "would be dealt with" if he came to the area. — *Geoffrey Gibbs*

**A SOLICITOR** claimed yester-

A SOLICITOR claimed yesterday that British Telecom will have to pay out thousands of pounds in compensation after admitting it was to blame for ear damage suffered by some of its employees.

The worst affected of the 30 telephone operators could get up to £100,000 each, according to Adrian Fawden.

Mr Fawden, who represented the BT workers on behalf of the Communication Workers Union, said: "I have been notified of a number of other claims and I am sure there will be many more."

ing damage from unexpected

"In the worst cases people are left with permanent damage to the inner ear; it is not just an annoyance, some cannot work again."

A spokesman for BT said: "These days acoustic shock is extremely rare. Since about 1991 all our equipment has been fitted with noise suppression devices within the computers and the headsets to protect our staff."

"We are not saying that it never happens, but it is extremely rare."

NO CHARGES will be laid

**NO CHARGES** will be laid over a three-year-old boy found dead in a puddle, the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday.

Louis Wedge, from Maltby in South Yorkshire, was found dead by a disused railway line near Maltby on April 11.

learning difficulties and a boy aged three were found war-

learning difficulties and a boy aged three were found wandering near the dead boy. However, after a child psychiatrist had been brought in to help, attempts to interview the two were abandoned on advice from medical and child care specialists.

**THE Yemeni tribesmen who**

THE Yemeni tribesmen who kidnapped a British family have set out their terms. They want the country's government to build paved roads to make impoverished areas more accessible, and return a confiscated four-wheel-drive vehicle, a Yemeni official said.

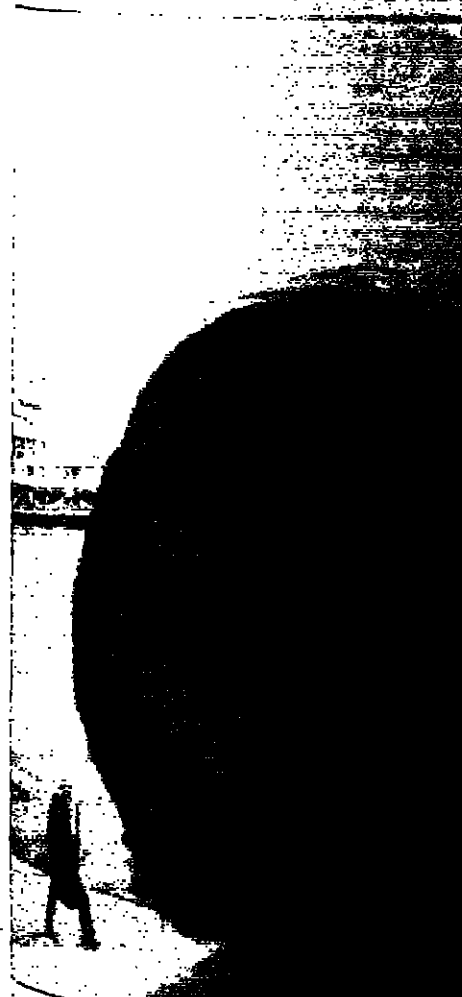
David Mitchell, a teacher, his wife, Caroline, and their son, Ben, are being held in the town of Kanoon, 100 miles from the capital, Sana'a, after being abducted on Friday.

Their captors are from the Beni Dabayan tribe. Last year the tribe kidnapped a British aid worker who was released after two weeks.

**Inventor  
scents  
cure for  
pong of  
trainers**

[illegible]

# Dobson jeeres

[illegible]



## Inventor scents cure for pong of trainers

John Duncan  
Sports Correspondent

FASHION has always come at a price. High heels make you fall over, tight trousers restrict blood flow to essential organs, and training shoes stink after a month if you do not wear socks.

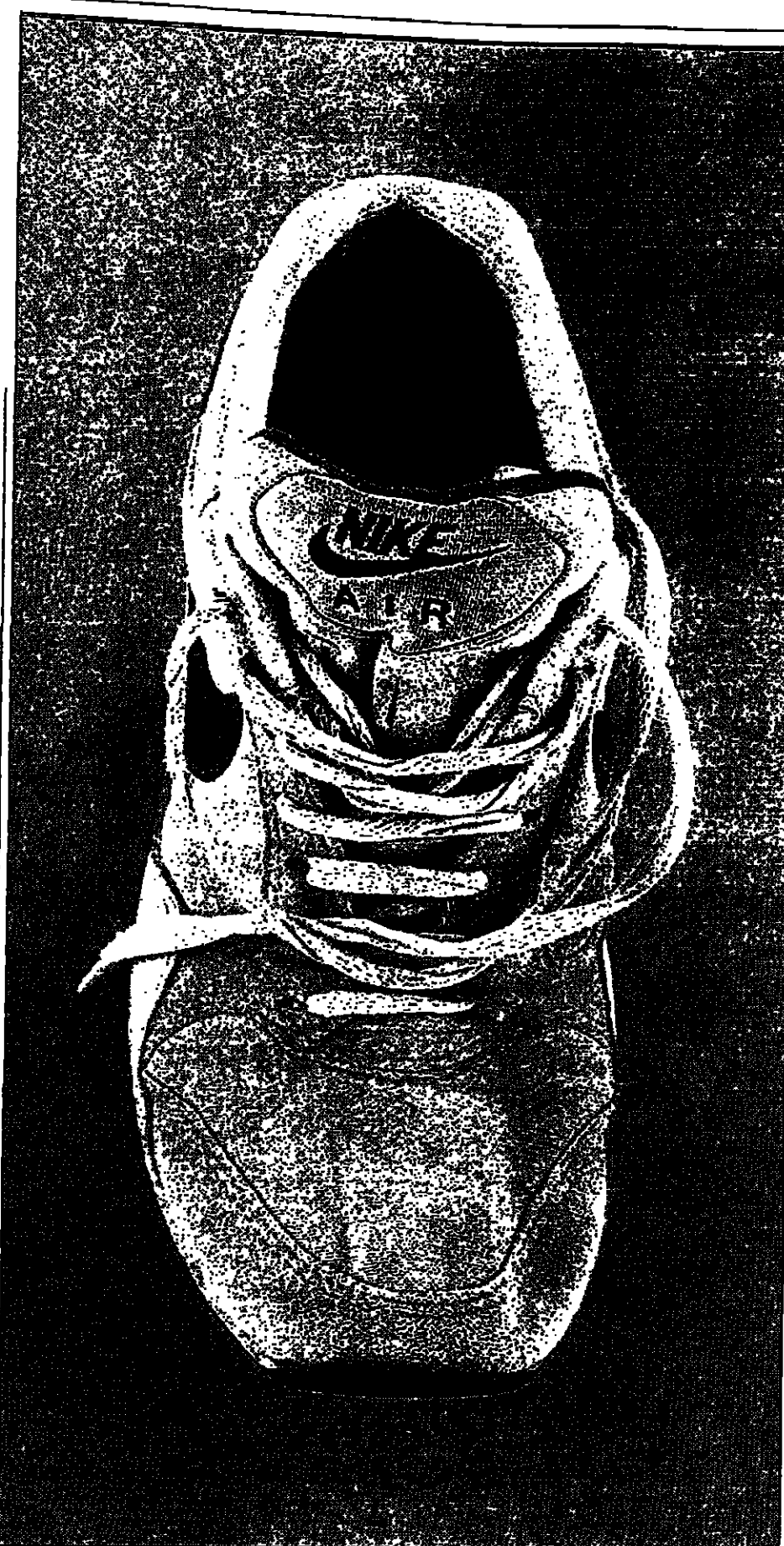
But British inventor Peter Chown reckons that while the first two problems are insurmountable, his new aerosol pump has cracked trainer tang.

Mr Chown's system, which has already attracted an offer from an American multinational shoe company, involves using the hollow sole of most modern trainers to store deodorant which a valve system, activated by the pressure of the foot walking, releases into the stinky parts of the shoe. Every morning one simply replenishes the deodorant.

"I started off by looking at what there was already. The sprays only last about 10 minutes and the socks you can put in get mangled up really quickly. So I cut open a heel on a trainer and found out it was hollow and that gave me the idea. Ten tiny holes allow deodorant to flow into the shoe.

Mr Chown has a track record as an inventor. He was part of the team that invented the first black box flight recorders for aircraft and he made £170,000 out of inventing the bike carrier for cars.

"I was a bit green then, selling it for a one-off payment," he says. "But this trainer technology will make me a millionaire if it gets taken up."



Fashion statement: a trainer which, claims inventor Peter Chown, may now come free of its traditional smell if his new deodorant pump succeeds

Government backing for report despite widespread criticism

## Call for drugs education for children aged five

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

THE Government yesterday backed a report which calls for children to be given education about drugs from the age of five.

The report came under fire from conservative groups who claimed it was unnecessary for such young children to be told about drugs.

The report from the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (Scoda), published yesterday, recommends:

- Drug education for children starting at age five to be an integral part of a personal, social and health education curriculum;

- A sustained programme of education for parents about drugs;

- An increase in services for young people with drug problems.

Roger Howard, chief executive of Scoda, said: "When deaths from drug misuse are increasing among young people, it is time to bite the bullet and invest in approaches known to work."

The chairman of Scoda, Lord Newton, the former Conservative cabinet minister, added: "Young people already know a lot about drugs from their friends and the media. We must ensure that this incomplete and often inaccurate information is not their only source of knowledge. Improving drug education, far from glamorising drug misuse, is a sensible response to a significant problem."

The report was criticised for suggesting that such young children should

receive education about drugs. A spokeswoman for Family and Youth Concern said: "Five is far too young. It is robbing children of their childhood to be telling them about drugs at that age. There are a lot of children who wouldn't be aware of drugs at all at that age."

Adrian Rogers of the Conservative Family Institute, called for Scoda to be abolished. "Introducing drug education to five-year-olds is a desperate measure, which is at best well-intentioned and at worst is simply going to open up appetites and desires as they get older. Drug education is unsuccessful. It is a waste of school time, and for some children it will encourage drug use. Scoda has singularly failed to come up with any measures that do anything to reduce drug abuse in this country. It should be abolished."

A spokesman for the Cabinet Office, which oversees the work of the national drugs co-ordinator, Keith Hellawell, welcomed the report. "We support the emphasis on early intervention, including drug education at primary school and work with parents," a spokesman said.

Mr Howard responded to criticism by saying: "We can't put our heads in the sand and pretend it's not there."

The plan also suggests a campaign to use the power of the media to encourage realistic strategies, that the Police Foundation inquiry into drug legislation should be supported, and that local employment services work more closely with drug action teams to help recovering drug misusers get back to work.

Drugs: a plan of action for the next century. Scoda, 32 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE.

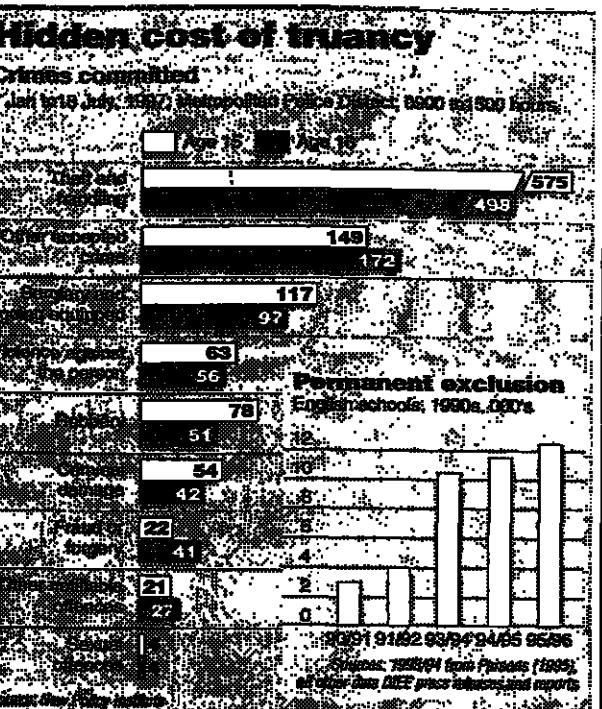
## '£81m cost' of unruly pupils

Vivek Chaudhary  
Education Correspondent

SCHOOL expulsions cost millions of pounds each year and have led to record levels of juvenile crime, according to a report today by the New Policy Institute.

The report claims that last year, it cost the education, health and social services about £81 million to deal with pupils who had been permanently excluded from school.

If the pupils had remained in full-time schooling it would have cost £34 million. Exclusions had increased from 2,910 in 1990/91 to just over 12,000 in 1995/96. Two thirds had taken place in just a quarter of all secondary schools,



and black pupils were nearly five times more likely to be excluded than white pupils. Of those who had been permanently excluded, fewer than one in six returned to

full-time education. According to the report, Second Chances, there is a link between juvenile crime and expulsions. One in three juvenile of-

fenders committed their crimes when they should have been in school, and pupils who had been permanently excluded committed between 20 to 50 crimes each before they were arrested.

The report also refers to a 1996 Audit Commission survey which found that 42 per cent of school-age offenders sentenced in youth courts had been excluded from school.

David Gifford, a Metropolitan police commander and one of the authors of the report, said: "We believe there is a direct and palpable link between exclusion, truancy and crime."

The report calls for the setting up of exclusion panels, made up of local businesses, school governors and the police to decide which pupils should or should not be excluded. It claims that too often, head teachers have to make the decision in isolation and under pressure.

Financial disincentives should also be put in place so that schools continued paying for the excluded pupils' education, wherever they might end up. The report also calls for schools to be made to accept excluded pupils from other schools so that children could continue with their education.

## Dobson jeered on staged pay rise



Linda Bishop: 'My contribution should be recognised'

Linda is paid less than her children

David Brindle

WHEN Sir Ian Bishop starts work as a police constable later this year, she will immediately earn more than her mother, Linda, an experienced and highly-qualified district nurse in Cardiff.

Linda's son and daughter-in-law already earn more as a company manager and teacher respectively. They all ask Linda why she puts up with it.

"I'm not knocking the other professions at all, because I see at first hand what they have to do," says 49-year-old Linda. "But I feel I should be getting the recognition for the valuable contribution I am making."

Her case was yesterday highlighted by the RCN as a classic example of what is wrong with both the level and structure of nurses' pay.

Linda left school without qualifications and did not start training as a nurse until she was 30. She paid her own way through O and A levels, a social studies diploma and, at an estimated cost of £2,500, a master's degree.

At Cardiff Community Healthcare trust, she is at the top of nursing grade 3 and is paid £18,700 for her work with housebound, chronically ill patients and for advising the trust on continence care.

She could seek a higher-paid job in management or as a sister in another community team. But she wants to keep a hands-on role and is committed to the multi-professional team she works with — a team epitomising the way the Government wants health and social care to develop.

Plans for extra salary points worth up to £1,200 a year will not apply to lower nurse grades, including E. Anything Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, offers nursing is worthless without a decent pay rise, says Linda, who admits to having discouraged Stan from entering nursing.

"He may say that he likes nurses, but I just find that very patronising," she says. "It's going back to the old image of angels — and angel I am not."

Asked how big a pay rise nurses need, Linda unhesitatingly says 20 per cent.

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

NURSES yesterday jeered the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, as he apologised for staging their wage rise, and admitted that the Government's public sector pay policy was no better than that of the Conservatives.

Mr Dobson refused to rule out staging next year's award as well, at first suggesting it might be paid in full but then warning that economic policy might dictate otherwise.

"I would hope that in the long run we would be able to get away from staging review body pay awards, but I cannot guarantee and make casual promises about that," Mr Dobson told reporters.

Delegates to the annual congress of the Royal College of Nursing gave the minister a cool reception, in contrast to the standing ovation of last year just after the general election.

Some delegates staged a silent protest over the staging of the 3.5 per cent pay

award, and a handful walked out. Others barracked, especially when Mr Dobson announced a minimum rise of just £122 — the first for three years — in the bursary worth £4,350 a year to most student nurses.

Betty Kershaw, RCN president, told the minister that staging the pay award had been "no way for this government to show it values a workforce of professional nurses".

The same thing could not be allowed to happen again. "If the Government stages the pay award again next year, I won't blame the nurses who will leave the NHS in greater numbers for British Airways and Marks & Spencer. Forcing nurses to leave the profession is tragic."

Mr Dobson arrived at the congress in Bournemouth armed with the news of the bursary rise and a £14 million programme to extend limited prescribing by community nurses to all parts of the country, but admitted straight away that the Government's pay policy had been bad news for nurses. Al-

though the aim was steady and sustainable growth in NHS pay, the priority was to put the public finances on a sound footing.

"I am genuinely sorry that we decided to stage this year's pay increase, but I have to say we believed it was necessary. I look forward to being able to avoid it in future," he said.

Questioned later by journalists, Mr Dobson said he was not embarrassed by the way he had been received. "In view of the fact that they are very upset I thought it was a very fair reception."

He looked forward to implementing pay awards in full, but the economy remained in need of further strengthening before the Government could do anything different on pay than the Tories had done.

Christine Hancock, RCN general secretary, said the Government had saved only £84 million by staging the award. Nurses had felt angry, hurt and insulted by what it had done, and had shown it yesterday.

"I don't believe they will stage it again. I don't see the economic need for staging."

## OFT check on petrol profits

Paul Brown  
Environment Correspondent

SUPERMARKETS have not passed on to customers the 30 per cent cut in world oil prices over the past three years, and are making 2.4 pence a litre more profit on petrol than in 1995.

The watchdog, the Office of Fair Trading, which is concerned that their power to fix prices is against consumer interests.

Oil Price Assessment Ltd, which has for 25 years been an independent monitor of oil companies, says that while most of Europe has seen petrol prices fall by more than 5p a litre, in Britain it has been less than 2p.

According to Opal's research in 1995, at the start of the petrol price war, supermarkets enjoyed a profit margin of 2.9 pence a litre. By January 1997 that had risen to 3.6p, and at the end of March this year it stood at 5.3p.

Although supermarkets have only 6.3 per cent of total petrol stations, they have a much higher volume of sales per station. They have 22 per cent of the £25 billion a year motor fuel market — out-selling Esso, with 19 per cent.

OFT began its investigation last summer when it was

clear that control of the petrol market had passed from the oil companies to the supermarkets. Its report on possible price fixing is due out at the end of the month.

Peter Regnier, director of Opal, said: "Supermarket chains now occupy the position of price leadership. There is little doubt that over the past few months, they have been increasing their profit margins as the price of oil has continued to fall."

Tesco which controls 288 sites in Britain, denied that supermarkets were failing to pass on price cuts. A spokeswoman said: "We always try to offer the cheapest petrol to our customers with the lowest price in any area where we have a store with a petrol station."

Sainsbury, with 205 stations, also denied making excess profits, and said duty and VAT made up more than 80 per cent of the price of petrol. "Profits are very small in petrol retailing."

An RAC spokesman said: "We have a suspicion that supermarkets with their increasing dominance in petrol retailing may not be passing on the real falls in the price of petrol to motorists. We would be very concerned if they ever became monopoly suppliers, where they could dictate the price in any given area."

## Academics plan to study violence

Amelia Gentieman

A NUMBER of well-built university academics have been instructed to give up their day jobs and take up nocturnal employment as nightclub bouncers, it emerged yesterday.

This innovative research forms part of the biggest academic study into violence in Britain. The £3.5 million Violence Programme brings together 20 separate studies, including investigations into child abuse and interviews with some 175 murderers to assess what can trigger off violence.

The project will also see academics shadowing prostitutes as they walk the streets to study the kinds of violence they are subjected to.

The programme director, Betsy Stanko, professor of criminology at Brunel university in Uxbridge, said the academics would be given some training for their new role as bouncers — but all were naturally equipped for the job because they had been selected primarily on the grounds of their physiques.

She refused to reveal which university was carrying out the project, to avoid exposing the researchers to any unnecessary danger.

Recent Home Office research identified widespread corruption within the private security profession, noting that many bouncers were involved in drug dealing.

She said the academics would be assessing over a 24-month period what kind of situations caused violence outside pubs, bars and nightclubs and how it could be defused. "Research suggests that a large number of assaults take place outside pubs and clubs. The only way to learn about that is to go in there."

Funded by the Government's Economic and Social Research Council, the project aims to provide an improved understanding of violence, and give policy makers a more realistic perception of how it can be prevented.

The research will try to stamp out the myth of violence being committed by "the stranger lurking in a bush", highlighting how "most violence is systematic and not caused by strangers". Professor Stanko said: "Violent acts typically occur between people who know each other — often in a domestic or familiar setting."

## Disposable nappies attacked

Stuart Miller

THE Great Nappy Debate reignited yesterday as local authorities and green campaigners warned parents against the environmental impact of covering their offspring with disposables.

At the start of Real Nappy Week, campaigners claimed disposable nappies create more than a million tonnes of waste a year, costing £40 million of council tax payers' money to dispose of. Most of this waste goes into council landfill sites, even though 75 per cent of it is untreated sewage. The waste will take generations to break down.

"Nappy waste is harmful, unnecessary and expensive," said Ann Link, waste prevention co-ordinator at the Women's Environmental

Network, which is leading the campaign. "Parents don't just want convenience. The key is what they get used to using when their babies are very little and we want them to be able to make a fair choice."

Manufacturers of disposables, who sell almost 3 billion nappies a year, said there was no evidence their products were any more damaging than reusable cloth nappies, which produced waste through washing and bleaching. Philip Barnes, executive director of the Absorbent Hygiene Products Manufacturers Association, said: "The conclusion of a number of scientific studies is that neither reusable nor disposable nappies have an overall significant advantage for the environment."

Disposables account for more than 90 per cent of nappy changes in this

country, and 96 per cent of parents use them at least some of the time. But opponents, who hope to convince 50 per cent of parents to use cloth nappies in the next five years, claim the environmental cost message is getting through, and note the appearance of nappy laundering services across the country.

Real Nappy Week is timed to coincide with the Waste Minimisation Bill's progress through the Commons. Supported by the Government, it will enhance local authorities' powers to prevent waste in an attempt to balance their duties to dispose of it.

To mark the occasion, some councils, alarmed by the costs of dealing with disposables, are promoting cloth nappies. Some, including Bromley in Kent and Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire, will offer free reusable nappies.

## Nanny charged over injuries

Amelia Gentieman

AN AUSTRALIAN nanny appeared in a London court yesterday charged with causing life-threatening injuries to a six-month-old baby girl she was caring for.

Louise Nicole Sullivan, aged 26, is accused of causing grievous bodily harm to the baby, who is critically ill in a coma at Great Ormond Street hospital, in London.

Sullivan, a live-in nanny, appeared at Clerkenwell magistrates court. She said nothing throughout the 10-minute hearing and was remanded in custody for a week. Her mother is understood to be travelling from Australia to be with her.

Yesterday's appearance followed a two-day fight by doctors to save the baby, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

Kidnapper state terms



# Massacre ends peace in Kashmir

Ashok Pahawan in Jammu

**S**USPECTED separatist guerrillas shot dead 29 people in a weekend attack on a Kashmiri village. The dead, mostly Hindus, included 12 children, an Indian border security force official said.

No group had claimed responsibility for the attack on Friday night at Dhakikot, about 115 miles from Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state.

The authorities had earlier put the toll at 13. Reports of the shooting were delayed by the remoteness of the area.

The killings shattered a fragile peace which the authorities said had returned to the Himalayan state after years of bloody separatist rebellion.

"All the four Hindu families in the village had been gunned down and their houses set ablaze in the mid-night operation," said the security official.

The killing happened as 15 guerrillas were holed up in a cave in a nearby village after an encounter with security forces, the official said.

"The colleagues of this group had resorted to killing these innocent people in retaliation for our action and to break our cohesion," India's home affairs minister, L. K. Advani, told a news conference in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, yesterday that paramilitary forces would be provided to keep order.

He and Kashmir's chief

minister, Farooq Abdullah, had earlier visited Dhakikot. "It was heart-rending to see bodies lying around," Mr Advani said.

"I think the objective was to force another migration from that region," he added. The pair also visited Ahigam village, 30 miles south of Srinagar, where the army killed at least nine militants in a three-day battle at the weekend. Three soldiers were killed.

Mr Abdullah accused Pakistan of triggering the Dhakikot killings. Pakistan routinely denies Indian charges of fomenting militancy in the state, India controls two-thirds of the disputed region, Pakistan controls the rest.

"The gruesome killing of the innocent people will continue here until the borders are completely sealed off," Mr Abdullah said.

Pakistan, meanwhile, condemned what it described as the "custodial killing" of a separatist leader in the Indian-ruled part of Kashmir on Friday.

The dastardly and brutal act, which has shocked the people of Pakistan, deserves strong condemnation," the official APP news agency quoted a foreign ministry spokesman as saying about the killing of S. Hamid, chairman of one of the factions of the Jammu and Kashmir People's League.

Police in Indian Kashmir said on Saturday that Hamid was killed in a shoot-out with police in Srinagar. But his family accused officers of killing him after questioning him at his home. — Reuters.



Sacked Australian dockers take some time off while keeping up a union blockade of a Sydney wharf. A federal judge will decide in the next few days whether to order the rehiring of 1,400 dockers who have been replaced by a smaller, non-union force. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GRAY

## Nobel Prize-winning poet Octavio Paz dies at 84

Mexico has lost a giant of literature who won fame but made enemies probing the contradictions of the nation's soul, writes Niko Price

**T**HE poet and philosopher Octavio Paz, who probed the contradictions of the Mexican soul in prose and verse that lost him many friends and won him a Nobel Prize, is dead at 84. President Ernesto Zedillo announced the death from his jet yesterday as he returned from the Summit of the Americas in Chile. Mexican news media said Paz died at 11.35pm on Sunday at his home in the colonial Coyocacan district of Mexico City.

"This is an irreplaceable loss for contemporary thought and culture, not just for Latin America but for the entire world," Mr Zedillo said. Paz had suffered for years what he called a "long and wretched" illness. In November, after a European news agency prematurely reported his death, he called a television station to joke: "It pains me that those who insist on killing me are in such a hurry."

Paz, who wrote in a clear and simple style that broke with Mexico's baroque literary traditions, Paz is best known for two of his early works: the book-length essay *The Labyrinth of Solitude* and the poem *Sun Stone*.

The essay, published in 1950, described Mexican history as a search "for our own selves, deformed or masked by strange institutions", he later told a friend. His cultural critique hit close to home — too close for some. Many friends stopped speaking to him.

*Sun Stone*, published in 1957, was a critique of what Paz called Mexicans' proud apathy. Again, many colleagues were offended, but the poem earned him wide recognition.

In December Paz described Mexico as "A sunny country, a nation where the sun abounds, a prodigious sun, but also a dark and black country. This duality has me preoccupied since I was a child."

The Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes, a rival and one of Paz's sharpest critics, said Paz had "forever changed the

face of Mexican literature". Paz won the Miguel Cervantes Prize, Spain's most prestigious award, in 1982. In 1987, he was given the T. S. Eliot Award in Chicago.

Three years later he captured the Nobel Prize for literature.

He founded *Vuelta*, one of Latin America's most prestigious literary magazines, in 1976. Enrique Krauze, the

prominent historian, said: "He is the greatest Mexican writer of all times and one of the principal writers of this century."

Paz grew up on the edge of Mexico City. His father was secretary to Emiliano Zapata, a peasant leader of Mexico's revolution of 1910-1920. When Zapata was murdered in 1919, the Paz family went into brief exile in Los Angeles.

Back in Mexico, Paz published his first poem at 16 and his first essay a year later. At the law school of the National Autonomous University, in the capital, he joined a Marxist student group, the beginning of a long involvement with left-wing causes.

At college he married the writer Elena Garro, a union that produced a daughter, Helena, then ended angrily after 20 years.

In 1956 he married Marie-Josée Trémoures.

"If one dies it should be done smiling, and in good time," he said in November. "To those promoters of grave omens who don't know how to smile, I would say that they learn not the art of dying, but of smiling." — AP.



Paz: simple style broke with baroque literary traditions

# Odds against Khmer Rouge as end-game approaches

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

**T**HE sound of artillery fire around the Thai-Cambodian border shows that the Khmer Rouge battles on. But it remains to be seen how much stomach it really has for a fight.

Pol Pot's death makes little immediate practical difference, either to Cambodia or to the Khmer Rouge leaders who last year overthrew him and denounced him in a Maoist-style show trial.

General Ta Mok, a ruthless veteran of Khmer Rouge wars, and Khieu Samphan, the great survivor of its political battles, provide a continuity of leadership despite recent claims of a break with the past. They are served by a core of experienced and well-trained middle-ranking cadres who appeared at the United Nations in the 1980s and later at multi-party negotiations on Cambodia.

But this continuity may be the Khmer Rouge's fatal weakness.

Gen Ta Mok's brutal authoritarianism has sapped the fighting strength of the Khmer Rouge far more effectively than the government's underpaid, poorly trained and unmotivated forces.

Bitter internal dissent and mass defections last month forced him to flee his long-standing base in the remote and once seemingly impenetrable jungle vastness of Anlong Veng.

Khmer Rouge cadres continue to clasp the same 10,000 guerrillas — the same amount as a year ago. If



this figure were true it would constitute a force capable of holding out for years in the forest and rugged terrain of the Dangrek mountains along the border with Thailand. Fleeing Anlong Veng, they took the Khmer Rouge's mobile transmitter.

But working from defectors' accounts, analysts conclude that his force numbers between several hundred and 1,000 at the most. Few will be hardliners and most will succumb to collapsing morale.

"These are people who are there because they had to be or who thought they were inheriting something formidable," says the Cambodia scholar Steven Heder.

"Now they are discovering they have inherited something that's far from formidable, that can't guarantee their political future or their physi-

## The players

**IENG SARY** (pictured top) aged 77. A student with Pol Pot in Paris, he married the sister of the late leader's wife. He became his foreign minister and a member of the Khmer Rouge's powerful standing committee but claims he was never in the trusted inner circle and never ordered anyone's death. His defection in 1996 struck the guerrilla group a severe blow and last year he threw his weight publicly behind Cambodia's co-prime minister, Hun Sen.

**KHIEU SAMPHAN** (pictured bottom) aged 67. The urbane, public face of the Khmer Rouge since 1975. Respected during the 1980s as an uncorrupt politician, he claims to have had no part in or influence over the excesses of Pol Pot's rule but must have known of internal purges and the role of the Tuol Sleng interrogation centre.

**NUON CHEA**, aged 71. The rarely seen or heard "Brother Number Two" to Pol Pot is the only remaining leader said to have shed tears over his death. He was identified as the Khmer Rouge ideologist but as Pol Pot's deputy

played a wider role in the small inner circle directing the movement during its years in power.

**TA MOK**, aged 74. Officially an adviser to Khieu Samphan, he was once known as the Butcher for his ruthless elimination of suspected enemies. He is the real boss, having taken over from Pol Pot in a bloody power struggle in June. Supporters presented him as a popular moderniser but he was condemned by the latest mass defections for his repressive policies and harsh, authoritarian style.

break-up of Anlong Veng. He has been identified with some of Pol Pot's bloodiest purges.

Hun Sen has to weigh the benefits of striking deals with the remaining leaders against the kudos of military victory. But the Khmer Rouge's predicament leaves less and less room for manoeuvre.

"Those who cannot or will not make a deal with the government will end up either dead or in Thailand," Mr Heder predicts.

The academic and Pol Pot biographer David Chandler agrees.

"I don't think they've got a chance. The fact is there are a very bad bunch of people, I don't know who would give them amnesty. The end-game is getting closer and that can be nothing but beneficial for the Cambodian people."

## Past catches up with man who duped high society

Joanna Coles in New York

**B**Y THE TIME William Stephen Martin joined the governing board of the Palm Beach opera he was well and truly consi-

dered a local. A familiar figure in the wealthy business community, he appeared to be just another of those who were gloriously successful in their thirties and forties and now colonise Florida's famous beachfront.

Indeed, when he moved in to his new house on South Ocean Boulevard — only a few blocks south of Donald Trump's Mar-a-lago — the neighbours were relieved to see him have the exterior repainted a discreet grey.

"It was a spec house with an awful tangerine colour," says Mary Montgomery, whose husband Robert is

well known as a patron of the arts. "He also replaced the ghastly wood trim with stone. Everyone in the neighbourhood was thankful someone with good taste had moved in."

But although he had taste, he also had a secret: hidden for 19 years. He was not what he seemed. He did not, as he had hinted, work for the Central Intelligence Agency. Nor had he, as he told friends, taught at Harvard law school.

He was really Stephen Fagan, a crook who, after an acrimonious divorce, kidnapped his daughters, then aged four and two, telling them their mother was dead. He reinvented himself by using the name and social security number of a dead baby from Massachusetts.

Until last week his daughters, Lisa and Rachel, now aged 23 and 21, had no idea

their mother was alive and living in Virginia, or that for years after the divorce she had searched for them.

It was true that Mr Fagan had studied law, but at Suffolk law school not Harvard. His wife divorced him after accusing him of being a fraudster who spent his time dreaming up insurance scams and complicated art forgeries.

It is still unclear how he bought such an expensive house and gave so generously to the local opera.

The residents of Palm Beach are stoical. "People adore Bill," Mrs Montgomery told the New York Times.

"He was a very, very nice man, charming and amusing but not arrogant."

Police have refused to say how Mr Fagan's web of lies finally unravelled. He is due in a Boston court tomorrow.

## News in brief

### Eurocrats' strike threat part of phoney war

**A**MASS meeting tomorrow of 25,000 Eurocrats is expected to authorise strike action recommended by their six staff associations, writes Martin Walker in Brussels.

Their threats come despite the knowledge that a mass withdrawal of bureaucratic labour is highly unlikely.

A phoney war is under way in Brussels, and after the Guardian was invited to attend one of the union's executive committee sessions yesterday, it is fair to report that everybody knows it.

"There are three issues here: remuneration, job security and performance reviews. We are unlikely to get public support on any single one," said Jean-François Drevet of one of the unions, Renewal and Democracy.

"Most of the public think we are overpaid. Many think that if our job security is at risk, then we are simply joining them in the real world ...

We need to make a convincing case."

Union officials say the European Commission is trying to cut staff salaries, by making up to 30 per cent of their wages depend on regular performance reviews, and also plans to cut pension costs by 15 per cent.

Instead of strikes they plan targeted action, to disrupt crucial meetings and payments to farmers and Europe's poorer regions.

Police have refused to say how Mr Fagan's web of lies finally unravelled. He is due in a Boston court tomorrow.

### '141-year-old' dies in Nepal

**A**MAN who may have been the world's oldest person died in eastern Nepal yesterday at the age of 141, police and officials said.

Bir Narayan Choudhury swore by his diet of pork, milk, yogurt and rice, they added. King Birendra last year presented him with an award as a mark of respect.

However, his name did not appear in the Guinness Book of World Records because he did not have any document to prove his age. Registration of birth and death is not compulsory in Nepal. — Reuters.

### Residents have plenty to smile about after pilot makes hash of it

**A**SMALL plane loaded with marijuana crashed into a Detroit park at the weekend after being trailed by United States customs agents for 1,500 miles. And when some residents decided that they could not be of help to the dying pilot, they apparently helped themselves.

Gloria Johnson said she heard a boom, saw the plane hit a tree and then crash into a field next to a school. The pilot was still alive when neighbours ran to help, she added.

"There were big bundles of drugs and money all around the plane. The bundles of marijuana looked like two big suitcases."

She said she saw people leave the scene with some of the packages.

"A couple of guys came to help, then grabbed the bags of drugs and left," Ms Johnson added.

Authorities were investigating whether anything was removed from the crash site, a customs service special agent said yesterday. — AP.



Senator Raza Rabbani is helped away by supporters of Pakistan's opposition leader Benazir Bhutto after a demonstration in Islamabad yesterday against Nawaz Sharif's government was broken up by police using batons and tear gas. PHOTOGRAPH: MUHAMMAD PASHA

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## Aid groups 'squeezed' as EU budget

Third World 'squeezed' as EU budget

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The Guardian Tuesday April 21 1998

Third World 'squeezed' as EU reaches eastwards

## Aid groups attack EU budget plans

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**T**HE European Union's development budget for the Third World is being squeezed to fund reforms intended to help eastern European countries join the EU, humanitarian aid groups said yesterday.

A conference of non-governmental organisations in Brussels later this week will debate complaints that third world aid has been downgraded in the EU's Agenda 2000 programme.

Among the speakers will be Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, who wants the Government to increase aid budget from 0.27 per cent of the national product to the United Nations' target of 0.7 per cent.

The EU is the largest aid provider in the world, with an annual budget of nearly \$5 billion. But its priorities are turning towards expansion into eastern Europe and helping applicant countries there to modernise their economies and political systems. At least \$14 billion is being budgeted

for aid to eastern Europe over the next seven years, although the European Commission says the money will be found in reforms of existing budgets.

It seems likely that development aid in next year's budget will total about \$100 million, much less than the \$140 million called for by the European Parliament.

James Mackie, executive secretary of the development NGOs, said: "We are led to believe that the main costs of enlargement will come from savings, but we have had no commitments from the commission that third world aid will be protected."

"We are pushing for funds for our work but we also want a re-positioning of priorities."

There are claims that projects in Asia and Latin America, including ravaged areas such as Vietnam and Cambodia, are already losing funds. Even north Africa, a declared EU priority, may suffer cuts.

Rehabilitation aid, funding projects which help to restore housing, education and infrastructure after wars and natural disasters, has been cut by a third since the early Nine-

ties. The budget, originally supposed to be about \$70 million, never got beyond \$50 million and is now down to about \$30 million a year.

Specific projects to help women in the developing world are being rejected and even in priority areas, such as Algeria, projects to assist the integration of women and unemployed youngsters into the economy have been lost.

There are signs of panic among commission officials preparing a response for this week's conference. None was available yesterday.

Applicant east European states are unlikely to contribute aid. Most have no such overseas budgets.

At the same time as its enlargement programme, the EU will hold talks with the 71 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific regions which have signed the 1975 Lomé convention to promote economic development, due to be renewed in 2000.

Its declared targets are the promotion of human rights, private enterprise and democracy — similar to those the EU wants in eastern Europe.



Warders demonstrate outside Villeneuve-Maguelonne jail near Montpellier in a national protest at working conditions. PHOTOGRAPH CHRISTOPHE SIMON

## Hell 'a sad myth' says Finnish priest

Jon Henley

**S**INNERS fretting about the fate awaiting them in the hereafter may like to consider a move to Finland, where a leading minister of the normally austere Lutheran Church has declared that hell does not exist and everyone will end up in heaven anyway.

"It's an entirely false construct," said Antti Kyliäinen, a Helsinki priest and author of a book that has sparked a furious row among the generally docile Finnish faithful. "Fire, brimstone and eternal torment — they're all part of the same sad myth."

Adding fuel to the flames on earth is another outspoken minister, Olli Arola, who told a newspaper last week that Jesus Christ was "in all probability" married to Mary Magdalene, and that the immaculate conception and virgin birth were "highly unlikely ever to have happened".

While 85 per cent of Finns nominally belong to the national Lutheran Church, only about 15 per cent regularly attend services. But most of them seem to have written angry letters protesting at the ministers' remarks, saying they amount to heresy.

"We're beginning to lose count," said a Church spokesman, Petri Torsialainen. "It's unprecedented; certainly into the thousands. I'm sure these comments were intended to encourage a healthy debate, not out-and-out rebellion."

But many Finns seem as upset by the Church's treatment of its two turbulent priests as by their remarks.

The bishops gave Mr Arola a mild reprimand, but decided against taking formal action. And despite holding a full inquiry into Mr Kyliäinen's book, they voted against punishing him — apparently because doing so would have infringed on his right to free speech.

"The Church is a broad one and must rise above conflicting views and interpretations," the Bishop of Helsinki, Kero Huovinen, said. "Priests have the right of free speech and personal opinions as much as anyone else."

The protesters are not so sure. Frustrated by the bishops' forgiving nature, they have appealed to the parliamentary ombudsman and the supreme administrative court.

"It's heresy pure and simple," said Esko Vesterinen, aged 68, a churchgoer in the south-western town of Turku. "Where do we stand if our priests start denying the existence of hell? These men need to see the light."

● A Finnish drunken driver who rammed his car into a Santa sledge pulled by reindeer last Christmas escaped with a light sentence yesterday. The judge said the man, aged 69, deserved leniency because his surprise at seeing Father Christmas was partly to blame for the crash. The driver, whose blood alcohol level was only slightly over the limit, was fined £150.

## Lie of the land feeds Arab anger



A Bedouin stands beside the ruins after Israeli border police razed her family home near the Israeli settlement of Qidar on the West Bank. PHOTOGRAPH GREG MARINOVICH

One in five Israelis is an Arab. But many find themselves living lives that contradict the founding father's vision of equality.

**Julian Borger** reports from Wadi Naam in the Negev, where Bedouin find traditions and houses bulldozed



**I**N A promotional poster celebrating 50 years of Israel as melting pot, three boys are standing arm in arm. One is an Ethiopian Jew, another a young Russian immigrant. Both are going up in admiration of a smiling native-born Israeli.

Israel at 50 is defined as much by what is missing from the picture as by what is included. There are no girls left in the growing population of ultra-Orthodox Jews. Nor is there an Arab.

Although one in five Israelis (nearly 1 million) is an Arab,

seen their way of life obliterated. These include the Bedouin, whose herding grounds are being absorbed by Jewish farms and whose villages are being bulldozed at an accelerating pace. Once a quiet, even loyal community, the Bedouin are being sucked into a worsening conflict with the state over the essence of their identity: the land.

The ramshackle and forlorn village of Wadi Naam lies at the heart of the Arab Bedouin's traditional grazing land in the Negev desert, five miles south of Beer Sheva. A thousand Bedouin live here, but it does not appear on Israeli maps. The state refuses to recognise it and 35 other Bedouin settlements which together are home to 60,000 people.

Non-recognition in the Negev is provocative. As well as being denied access to electricity and water mains, the village is harassed constantly by the "green patrols" whose job it is to prevent expansion or solidification of the settlement in the name of "preserving the environment".

The patrols arrived at Muhrak Farwana's house two years ago and left it a pile of rubble. He moved his family to government-approved housing in a nearby town purpose-built to concentrate the Bedouin population. Mr Farwana, a 35-

year-old truck driver, preferred life in the village.

"Most Bedouin are shepherds. They live with their animals in open places. In the town, it is very closed. People are concentrated together and get more diseases," he said.

Mr Farwana was holding the green flag of the Islamic Movement at a recent demonstration to mark Land Day. The Islamists have always been a dominant force among Israel's Arabs, but they are becoming increasingly outspoken. On the podium on Land Day an Islamist orator was berating the passivity of his followers.

**More than half the Jewish teenagers polled said they did not believe Arab citizens should have the same rights**

"We are so peaceful and loyal, what has it got to do with us? We are the indigenous people. We are not Israelis. We are Arab people and part of the Islamic world. Our national loyalty is not Israel, it is Arab. We are ready to die for this land."

The desire of many Bedouin for acceptance by Israel has gone unrequited. In an opinion poll in January, more than half the Israeli Jewish teenagers questioned said they did not believe Arab citizens

should have the same rights as themselves.

After 50 years of statehood, Israel has yet to decide whether its Arab citizens are indeed equal before the law. The confusion dates back 50 years ago when David Ben-Gurion made his famous declaration of independence.

He promised a state that would ensure "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex", and he appealed to the state's remaining Arab inhabitants to "preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the state".

ing of the state on the basis of full and equal citizenship.

But the first prime minister also declared Israel a Jewish state. The two undertakings have been at odds ever since, particularly over the issue of territory, and never more so than under the present right-wing government, for which the need to Judaize the land takes precedence.

Legal redress is hard to come by. When an Arab cou-

ple, Ayman and Adil Qadad, tried to buy property in the Galilee village of Kfarit, the Jewish-run local council blocked the purchase.

The case went to the supreme court, which has yet to make up its mind and appealed last month to the parties to settle out of court to save the judicial system the political embarrassment of unravelling Israel's founding contradiction.

The Qadads were prevented from buying property by a legal finesse by which the land was transferred to the Jewish Agency, a body which is technically independent and so able to choose to whom it leases the land. Israel's infrastructure minister, Ariel Sharon, has masterminded a pilot scheme whereby 25,000 acres of state land in the Negev and Galilee would be transferred in the same way.

The "pioneering" land has been offered to rich Jews from the US, South America, South Africa and Europe so that they may — in the words of the Jewish Agency chief, Avram Burg — "invest in the country and influence Israel".

The land confiscations may have a more immediate influence. Azmi Bishara, an Arab parliamentarian, declared at Wadi Naam: "If there is no basic solution to the problem, there will be an explosion."

## Germany's guerrillas call it a day

Ian Traynor in Bonn

**A** GENERATION of leftwing terrorism in Germany came to a formal close yesterday when the Red Army Faction, the guerrilla and terrorist organisation born in the radical student revolts of the 1960s, announced it was disbanded.

An eight-page statement, regarded as authentic, admitted the defeat of an almost 30-year-old armed underground campaign to overthrow the "constitutional order" of post-war Germany.

It read: "We are ending this project today. Urban guerrilla activity in the form of the RAF is now history."

The faction was founded by Ulrike Meinhof and Andreas Baader at the end of the 1960s to replace the Baader-Meinhof Gang.

Declaring war on "imperialism" and "monopoly capitalism", the ringleaders moved from burning department stores to collaboration with Middle Eastern terrorists, complicity with the communist regime of the then east Germany, and spectacular hijacks and kidnappings of leading Germans.

In its heyday during the 1970s and 1980s, the faction killed at least 30 people. Hans Martin Schleyer, head of the German employers' federation, was the most prominent victim, shot dead in 1977.

Yesterday's statement conceded "errors" in operations and thinking, arguing that the terrorists had been mistaken to focus on "the armed struggle" without also forming a political front organisation.

## Illegal bugging endangers Spanish agents

Adela Gooch in Madrid

**S**PAIN'S counter terrorist operations in the Basque country are in disarray after the discovery that secret service agents have been illegally bugging the separatist group ETA's political wing.

A magistrate investigating allegations by Herri Batasuna, a legitimate political party, that the Cessid secret service had monitored phone calls and conversations at its offices has revealed that no surveillance permit was obtained, as required by law.

Herri Batasuna discovered wires leading to the flat above its offices in the Basque capital, Vitoria. Cessid agents realised that their cover had been blown and fled. But they left behind pay slips and phone bills with contact numbers.

Egin newspaper, considered ETA's mouthpiece, published a photograph at the weekend of a man it said was one of the agents, along with his address and the addresses of his relatives.

Security analysts say Spain's intelligence network in the Basque country — a key element in the fight against ETA terrorism, responsible for 765 deaths in the past 30 years — may have to be disbanded and reorganised. An ETA assassination campaign against politicians from the governing Popular Party and their families could be extended to Cessid agents.

The bugging scandal has embarrassed the prime minister, José María Aznar, who is pledged to reform the secret service.

## Local invention with British support cuts smog in Ulan Bator

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

**C**HRONIC air pollution in the coldest capital city in the world is to be curbed with the help of a \$30,000 grant from the Foreign Office.

Half the 650,000 population of Ulan Bator in Mongolia live in traditional round felt

huts called gers and use stoves burning coal and wood to keep out the cold during the six-month winters when temperatures fall as low as minus 35C.

The fumes produce a smog which causes severe respiratory diseases in children and kills many people each year.

A local man designed a new stove which burns a quarter of the fuel, but he was unable

to build and market it because he had no money for a workshop.

The stove, called Ger 2, was tested by the University of London for heating and cooking qualities. John Durham, the British ambassador to Ulanbator, made an application to the Foreign Office's new environment fund, which gives grants of up to \$600,000 a year.

Most of the two million people in the Mongolian countryside burn dry dung to keep warm, but in the city there is only low quality coal, which are often illegally felled. The forests are also damaged by the smog which causes acid rain.

In winter the average family in a ger burns between four and six tonnes of coal and be-

tween three and four cubic metres of wood. The new stoves will reduce the amount of coal needed to heat the capital from 150,000 tonnes to less than 50,000 tonnes.

The Mongolian environment ministry says that word of the new stove has spread and hundreds have asked to buy them. Once the factory is in production it will be supported by sales. The stoves

will soon pay for themselves in reduced fuel bills.

The environment fund was established by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who says he wants to emphasise environmental issues in foreign policy. Among its other projects are conservation of brown and hawksbill turtles in Barbados and a reforestation programme on the Pitcairn Islands.







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## After Israel's soundbites

Talks must be substantial

NEW TALKS on the Middle East must be good news as compared with no talks at all. That still leaves the event proposed for early May in London as obscure as the way in which the plan emerged. This is not a sparkling initiative brought to Israel by a prime minister flushed with his success in Northern Ireland. It was Benjamin Netanyahu who made the idea public on Sunday evening after some vague discussion with Tony Blair. Then it sounded like an Israeli-Palestinian summit with significant US-EU involvement. Yesterday the European role appeared to fall away, leaving Britain just as a "facilitator". Nor was it clear whether this would be a proper summit, or an industrial-type negotiation to be performed by the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright running between different rooms. Is it worth coming to London just for that?

The answer, though without illusions, is still yes. The process is in desperate need of a new venue and a new context. The ritual of US shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Gaza has numbed external awareness and solidified the internal stalemate. A London meeting with full publicity should bring the conflict and the issues which separate the two sides into sharper focus. It is not enough either to condemn in broad terms Mr Netanyahu's stonewalling or to deplore Mr Arafat's handling of the security issue. Foreign involvement, whether direct or indirect, will only begin to be effective with an active public interest behind it. This requires the clearest poss-

ible grasp of the issues and how they relate to the agreements already reached in Oslo, Cairo, Washington and elsewhere.

Israel is accused of dragging its feet both on the agreed timetable for interim negotiations — now overtaken by the "final status" negotiations which have their own fast-approaching deadline. In doing so it has delayed agreement and action on a whole range of issues from troop withdrawal to safe passage between the Palestinian zones. The Netanyahu administration does not seriously deny that the timetable has slipped, nor that the outstanding issues have piled up. But it insists that any delay is justified by the Palestinian failure to fulfil its side of the bargain. In particular, Israel says Mr Arafat has failed to deliver "a full-time commitment" to security, he maintains three times as many Palestinian police as he is allowed, and the agreed changes to the Palestinian National Charter have not yet been fully made.

Whole chapters could be written on each of these issues: let us take just two — the Charter and the problem of Israeli withdrawal. On the first, the Palestinian National Council has abrogated a number of the Charter's articles in part or in full. Mr Arafat certified as much in letters to the late Shimon Peres and Bill Clinton. But the amendments have not yet been ratified by the PLO executive committee, and no redrafted charter has yet emerged. Is this a substantive omission? On the second, Israel may argue that the Hebron agreement last year made withdrawal subordinate to full "reciprocity" in which the Palestinian side reaffirmed its commitments on the Charter and "fighting terror." But Israel did not dissent from the US Secretary of State's letter which said that the three phases should be completed not later than mid-1998. Was this a firm commitment?

We need to deconstruct the soundbite diplomacy halfheard on morning news programmes (which the Israelis who are natural soundbites from their prime minister downwards usually win) and get on top of these issues. Let Britain host the conference under whatever name is preferred, but let Mr Blair insist that it deal with matters of real substance — and make sure we understand them too.

## School is the key

Teachers and the drugs war

SIX months ago we published the first newspaper article written by the new "Drug Tsar", Keith Hellawell. In it he expressed his hope of giving "teachers the knowledge, skill and support that would encourage them to see drug education as a priority and not as a burdensome extra". He will have been heartened by recent responses. Earlier this month Peter Smith, the leader of the third biggest teachers' union, called for compulsory drug awareness training for teachers. It followed surveys which showed how ill-informed teachers were about drug misuse. It is a worldwide phenomenon. Recent surveys in America have shown that even members of the swinging states who did inhale are out-of-touch with the drug habits of their children. Now the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (Socda) has urged ministers to place drug education on the national curriculum for children as young as five and introduce separate education programmes for parents too.

Predictably the dinosaurs against social change have raised their heads. Family and Youth Concern accused Socda yesterday of "robbing children of their childhood" while

the Conservative Family Institute described drug education as a waste of time which would only encourage drug misuse. These are the same arguments used against sex education and once more fly in the face of facts. Just as researchers have shown children who have sex education have their first sexual intercourse at a later age than those who have had no education, so government research has shown that early drug education can delay dabbling with illegal substances. Mark Twain summed it up the effects of education a century ago: "Soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre but they are more deadly in the long run."

Teachers have every reason to be wary of an overloaded curriculum but they also have a responsibility to the children in their care. Most children who dabble in drugs do not become addicts but almost one in seven become regular users and at least 100,000 become addicted. If teachers do not provide the education, children will still be given lessons but by the media and their contemporaries. That is why teachers have such a crucial role. Of course parents and informal education channels — clubs and local radio stations — must be included. Cambridge council is already running special programmes for parents. Will others please follow.

## Falling prizes

Queen's awards need reform

IF THE economic temperature of Britain were taken from the number of firms applying for and receiving Queen's Awards it would make dismal reading. The awards — for export, technology and environment — were started in 1966 as a commendable

initiative to promote business achievements in a way that gave companies public recognition for what they did and also an award that could be used to improve their sales. During its peak 1,600 firms a year applied for the export award and around 260 for the technology one. But last year only 864 bothered to apply for the export award and only 207 for the technology. Of course, a lot has happened since 1966. Manufacturing industry (which has raised output by less than one per cent a year since then) has lost a lot of the cachet it used to have. And so has the Queen.

The list of winners reveals what has been happening. Companies like Samsung Electronics of Korea and Sanyo Electric of Japan reflect the fruits of overseas firms setting up in the UK to fill the gap opened by the decline of our manufacturing base. Rover Group is a winner but it is now owned by BMW of Germany. And where are the growth companies that the United States spawns in such large numbers — the equivalent of Microsoft, Netscape, Cisco and so on? Apart from Zeneca (ICI's former subsidiary now valued on the stock market at £24 billion or three times its own) it is difficult to find a single recent superstar.

Perhaps it is time to give an award to someone who can make these awards more relevant (while simultaneously avoiding using the words Cool Britannia). There's only one man in the country with the power to do that: the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown. The main reason so few firms are applying for export awards is that it is so difficult to sell products abroad when the strong pound imposes such a big price handicap. We look forward to the time when Gordon Brown himself is nominated for a Queen's Award for Export Achievement. Then normal service will have been resumed.

## Letters to the Editor

From cradle of cool to the grave

COOL Britannia was in fact the inspiration of a truly English eccentric Vivian Stanhill who, with the Bonzo Dog Doodah Band, sang "Cool Britannia, Britannia takes a trip, Britons ever, ever, ever shall be hip" (Letters, April 18). He died recently in a fire in his Muesli Hill bungalow, a far cry from the brave new world of the spin-doctors. Whether he would have been amused or horrified at the purloining of his lyrics for a New Labour catchphrase is anybody's guess. If Peter Mandelson knew that Cool Britannia was dreamed up by a shambling bunch of subversive hippies the phrase might pass quietly back into history. Josephine Amey, Poole.

COOL Britannia, as in the ice cream, was not made up by Ben and Jerry, but a winner in a competition, entered in many magazines including the Fortean Times, to win a year's supply of ice cream. If my memory serves me correctly, the winner was 12 years old. Lucy Murphy, University of Lincolnshire and Humberside.

MARTIN WAINWRIGHT suggests (Letters, April 20) that the "woodland burial" at Athorpe of Princess Diana was with the approval of the "green campaign for environmental burial". My late husband, Michael Ian Boxall, mentioned in the article, was buried in a cardboard coffin together with a copy of the Guardian of the day. Diana was buried in lead. Waltraud Boxall, Liverpool.

THE title of the Most Malignant Town in Britain (Slough tries to shed its image of despond, April 18) belongs here in Basingstoke, so keep your hands off Slough. Millions of pounds and years of effort have gone into creating it. We've got concrete galore, roundabouts by the dozen and scores of featureless glass and concrete high-rise buildings. And what is more, we have our own peculiar climate too. J Street, Basingstoke.

AS AN antidote to the platitudes in the Little Book of Calm, I recommend the Australian Kaz Cooke's Little Book of Stress, published by Penguin. Valuable tips include: "Treat a religious fanatic." "Never sit if you can stand, walk if you can run, breathe if you can hyperventilate." "Public speaking engagement? Get drunk beforehand and wing it." "If you need a bit of a lift, rub some Tiger Balm on your genitals." Janet Wright, London.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address or a truncated postal address is supplied; please include a full postal address and day-time telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

## RIP Linda McCartney: all you gave is love

HOW saddened I am by the news of Linda McCartney's death (Report and obituary, April 20). I'm ashamed to admit that I had started, like many children of the sixties, hating her for marrying our beloved and beautiful Paul. (I had been so infatuated with him that I even moved from Kent to Liverpool, just to be near him.) I could imagine her thinking to herself in the dressing room: "Oh, I mustn't lose this," just as any busy mother would do. Suddenly it became blindingly obvious why she didn't wear flash clothes, or have the "make-over" treatment. She was so natural, sincere about her beliefs (vegetarianism, animal rights), and had no need to try to outshine her husband.

As the wife of a musician myself, I'd wish I'd been able to thank Linda for being such

an excellent role model — and for being the perfect wife for Paul. Julie Porter, Liverpool.

LINDA McCartney did not introduce the Beatles to Allen (not Allan) Klein, "the manager who antagonised John, George and Ringo" (She married a rock superstar, April 20). It was John who argued for Klein to manage the Beatles, with Ringo and George in agreement. Paul wanted Linda's father, Lee Eastman, to handle the group's affairs, and cited Klein as one of his main reasons for leaving the group. Sean Farrell, London.

THE deep sadness we all feel at the death of Linda McCartney must not tempt us

to detract from her campaign to promote healthy lifestyles. There is strong evidence that if all women in the UK adopted a healthier diet and lifestyle, the number diagnosed with breast cancer could be reduced — although breast cancer almost certainly has a number of causes, which as yet scientists do not fully understand. Linda McCartney was a creative and successful woman who fought her battle against breast cancer with great positivity. She was an inspiration to us all. We should honour her memory by doing as her family have requested: investing in research so that one day there can be a future free from breast cancer. Delyth Morgan, Chief executive, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, London.

FOR anyone coping with breast cancer who is anxious at the news of Linda McCartney's death, emotional and practical support is available. Breast Cancer Care's free nationwide helpline, 0800 245 345, is open all year, Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm, staffed by breast care nurses and women who have had breast cancer. If anything positive can come from Linda McCartney's death it should be the message to women of the importance of being breast-aware. Identifying and reporting any breast changes to your GP as soon as possible means that any treatments necessary will have a better chance of success. Samia al Qadhi, Chief executive, Breast Cancer Care, London.

THE opponents of organic wine will have to do better than Bob Lindo of Camel Valley Vineyard (Letters, April 20). The reason why most wine, many packaged beers and all manner of foodstuffs are sprayed, polished, waxed and thoroughly squirted with preservatives is because the producers and supermarkets have to bow down before the great god marketing who demands "long shelf life". It is not necessary to use such preservatives as sulphur dioxide. Both wine and beer contain a powerful natural preservative. It's called alcohol. If an unfiltered, unpasteurised, living, sedimented cask-conditioned ale (average strength 4 per cent alcohol) can stay in good drinkable condition without the aid of preservatives, the addition of sulphur dioxide to wines of between eight and 14 per cent alcohol is a nonsense. Roger Proft, St Albans.

## A well-deserved windfall at the orchard overlooking Jerusalem

AS DAVID Sharrock correctly indicates (Kibbutzniks cash in on country life, April 18), Kibbutz Ramat Rachel became one of the great success stories of modern Israel long before it won a multi-million pound windfall when Jerusalem bought up its orchards. This was due to the hard work, drive and enthusiasm of its management, made up mainly of South African Jews and led by Hillel Fine. When I first stayed in Ramat Rachel many years ago, I slept in the straw huts which were the only accommodation for paying guests. Mitzpeh (Viewpoint) Rachel was then, and is now, a great beauty spot with stunning views over Jerusalem and Bethlehem and the most beautiful swimming pool I know. I cannot afford to stay in the luxurious four-star hotel which was built a few years ago, but no visit to Jerusalem would be complete without at least one day in the pool. I am always touched by the welcome I receive from the

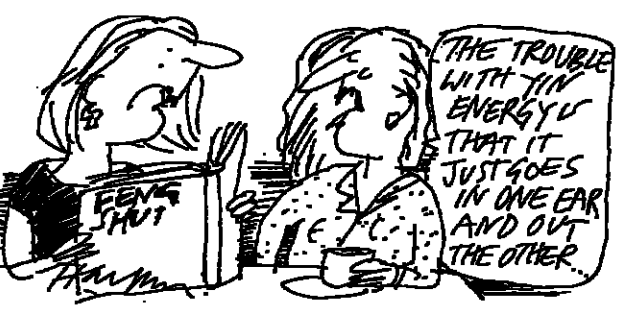
kibbutzniks. They thoroughly deserve the good fortune which has befallen them. Eric A. Rose, London.

LINDA Grant (Weekend, April 18), highlights Ashkenazi discrimination against Sephardi Jews in Israel. Yet when she says all Russian immigrants "speak the same language, share a similar culture and are all Ashkenazi" she herself ignores the tens of thousands of oriental Jews who have immigrated from former Soviet Central Asian republics. Their native language is Judeo-Persian, which is related to Farsi, and they follow the Sephardi rite. For centuries they lived among Uzbeks, Tadzhiks, Kazakhs and later, Russians, so it is absurd for Grant to suggest that if they are racist it is because they have never seen anyone not like themselves before. Caroline Walton, London.

## On Tim Allan's new career

TIM ALLAN is unlikely to be overly concerned with digital terrestrial broadcasting (Blair's side sparks new digital row, April 20) as BSkyB is no longer a member of the British Digital Broadcasting Consortium, just a programme supplier. Sky's likely strategy is to make satellite the dominant TV market and terrestrial the poor relation. It now seems likely that making digital satellite receivers able to receive terrestrial (or vice versa) will be too expensive a prospect for most viewers, who will opt for one or the other. The BBC, Channel 4 and Channel 5 are all in the process of signing up for carriage on digital satellite, with scrambling handled by Sky for a price but delivered "free" to the viewers (channels must be scrambled so that viewers cannot receive programmes in areas where

the broadcaster does not hold the rights). And digital satellite can deliver several times more channels than terrestrial ever will be able to do. If the regulation of broadcasters is handled by the ITC to the Government's satisfaction, then Sky can sit back and collect a fee from the BBC for every viewer of its programmes via satellite. If digital terrestrial fails, then Sky may control access to all TV channels for the majority of UK viewers once analogue is shut down. If digital terrestrial succeeds then Sky can collect the revenues from the channels it provides on terrestrial at no financial risk to itself. I suspect Mr Allan will mainly concentrate on cancelling this win-win strategy for as long as possible. Nigel Curson, Norwich.



What's feng shui when it's at home?

READ with alarm in Joan Smith's column yesterday (Everybody believes in something: goddess, guru or gobbledook?) that everyone was fed up with feng shui. I was alarmed because I had never heard of it. Apparently it had been running our lives for some time now and I never knew. I consulted my friends to see if they were aware of what was dominating them: Tony Blair, low wages, bad employers, drink, sex, lack of sex all figured, but none of them had heard of feng shui. I even asked a friend in Islington who thought it was a new oil to put on rocket salad. I was almost paranoid, and in need of spiritual assistance, when the truth dawned on me. It was all post-modernist.

Irony or, as we provincials say, lunacy. Steve Lowe, Bedford.

IS THERE really such a continuing diabolicality that anybody needs to get worked up about? The grief, recreational or otherwise, expressed at and around her funeral, is just another manifestation of the public spirit which will doubtless stop the country during England World Cup games. As for feng shui, this seems to have been popularised by Chinese restaurateurs. Isn't it much nicer to be told that your mirrors are reflecting good energy out in the wrong direction rather than that you run a crap restaurant? Nicholas Rutland, London.

## Sour grapes

THE opponents of organic wine will have to do better than Bob Lindo of Camel Valley Vineyard (Letters, April 20). The reason why most wine, many packaged beers and all manner of foodstuffs are sprayed, polished, waxed and thoroughly squirted with preservatives is because the producers and supermarkets have to bow down before the great god marketing who demands "long shelf life". It is not necessary to use such preservatives as sulphur dioxide. Both wine and beer contain a powerful natural preservative. It's called alcohol. If an unfiltered, unpasteurised, living, sedimented cask-conditioned ale (average strength 4 per cent alcohol) can stay in good drinkable condition without the aid of preservatives, the addition of sulphur dioxide to wines of between eight and 14 per cent alcohol is a nonsense. Roger Proft, St Albans.

IT IS quite possible to make wine (and cider) at home without any added preservative. The key ingredients are care and hygiene; preservative is used commercially because both are expensive. Sean Kelly, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

## More Campbells on the rampage

RE DUNCAN Campbell's "last stand" (Which clan would you choose — the one that produced all these stars? C2, April 16, and Letters, April 17). And to think my dear grandfather said it all began when certain "Camp-

Bello(s)" went and got washed up on the west coast of Scotland after the Armada went so disastrously wrong... Colin Macbeth, Hants.

The Country Diary is on Page 14

## A game of two halves — not to mention the haves and the have-nots

ROB Lee's attempted justification of footballers' wages (We're not just in it for the cash, honest, Sport, April 17) is undoubtedly viewed through rose-coloured spectacles — such one-sided reasoning simply reinforces people's thoughts about an ever-growing alienation between those involved in the sport, and those who watch it. Most people do not begrudge players their financial rewards. However, whereas Lee is only able to refer to Michael Owen as one whose performances have in no way been affected by his newly acquired wealth, most football fans would find it easy to list a number of players whose per-

formances could be questioned since money has become a dominant factor — McManaman, Redknapp, Ian Walker, Beckham, Collymore and Ferdinand (all young, and all English) to name but a few. It seems that those involved in football are adopting a "profit at all cost" policy — the game, like most of those players listed above, seems to have its head firmly planted up its own backside. Steven Harris, London.

ROB Lee justifies large salaries to footballers by suggesting that if the money is there, why shouldn't they have a large share? Whoever has the money, clubs or players, it is the loyalty of the fans that is subsidising such enormous incomes. Wouldn't it make a pleasant change if people in football started questioning whether fans don't deserve a little better? Pierre Moon, London.

YOUR senior football correspondent, David Lacey, appears to have mellowed over the last two years, and now presents a more balanced view of Manchester United's performances and achievements. Your other reporters, however, continue to reveal their prejudices week after week. The latest

example is Martin Thorpe (Match report, April 20) who feels that Solskjaer, sent off for a professional foul, "deserved more". What on earth does he mean by this? Perhaps Thorpe will soon be advocating the restoration of the death penalty for offending United players? I personally felt a great sense of gratitude towards Solskjaer for inflicting some pain on Newcastle player Robert Lee. This is something I've felt like doing for weeks — every time I find Lee's excruciatingly boring articles popping up at my breakfast table. Steve Fletcher, Prestwich.

THE BARRY AMIEL & NORMAN MELBURN TRUST LECTURE

# POWER

IN THE GLOBAL ARENA

SHIFTS, STRAINS & PROSPECTS

NOAM CHOMSKY

One year into the new Labour government, and the continuing threat to an ethical internationalism: Noam Chomsky reviews the current nature of the US-JK special relationship. Tony Blair and Bill Clinton are united by their unwillingness to challenge the world order: what prospects therefore remain for global change for the better?

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'This man of God'

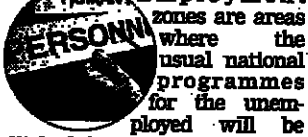
# Analysis Policy black spots

## Go-go for no-go zones

The Blairite solution to such on-going issues as low education achievement, chronic ill health and poor prospects for employment is to identify parts of Britain where these problems cluster and then concentrate resources. Smart. Will the policy work? Guardian writers offer their assessments

### Jobs

Charlotte Denny



**PERSONAL** Employment zones are areas where the usual national programmes for the unemployed will be ditched in favour of running trials of local initiatives. The five areas chosen to pilot the scheme all have high concentrations of the long-term jobless.

"Employment Zones will give communities the flexibility to devise local solutions which best meet local needs," said the Employment Minister, Andrew Smith, when he invited bids for zone status last September.

Plymouth, Liverpool, north-west Wales, south Teeside and Glasgow began running their own programmes in February. The schemes must all include: training plans to improve employment prospects, business enterprise to help the jobless move into self-employment, and neighbourhood regeneration — work which improves the wider community.

Ideas from the five areas include individual learning accounts, mentors for the jobless, free child-care vouchers, and specialised training for seasonal workers. In some cases benefit rules will be relaxed, like the ban on studying more than six hours a week while on Job Seekers Allowance. The Government is hoping that the zones will replicate the success of initiatives like the Wise Group in Glasgow which has a better record than the Employment Service at getting the long-term jobless back into real careers.

The schemes will be aimed at people aged 25 and over, who have been out of work for more than a year; a group whom the Government's critics say have been neglected because policies have focused on the young unemployed. Participants on the schemes will be volunteers who will receive their benefit plus a £15 a week top-up. Some 5,000 people will be covered in the five zones.

Like the New Deal, programmes will be run by a combination of Government, local businesses and voluntary organisations. The £58 million budget is fairly small by New Deal standards, but if the programmes are successful the Government will

expand the best features nationally.

The inspiration for pouring in resources to specified parts of the country came from Chris Smith when he was opposition spokesman for social security. He suggested consolidating all the resources spent on unemployment through benefits, training programmes, regional assistance budgets and European funds into one budget, and allocating grants directly to individually tailored schemes.

Experts are cautiously enthusiastic about the potential of the zones to generate new approaches for tackling unemployment. The biggest danger, according to John Philpott from the Employment Policy Institute, is that the Government could get cold feet when it comes to implementing the ideas across the country.

"The previous government would launch pilots and then let them drop regardless of how successful they were. It shouldn't just be about talking up sexy ideas but about seeing them through."

Local support is the key, says Paul Conway from the Unemployment Unit. "It demands high levels of local political leadership."

### Education

John Carvel



**EDUCATION** Education action zones have caused more fear and suspicion than any other item in the Government's programme for raising school standards. The reason is that they are designed to be testbeds for innovations — any one of which could become the template for radical reform of the education system in the later years of a Blair administration.

When David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, indicates that he would like to see at least one zone run by a business-led consortium, he frightens local authority leaders who think they may lose control of the education service to the private sector some way down the track.

When he suggests that zones could disregard national agreements on teachers' pay and conditions, he puts the wind up the unions

### A shot in the arm for Britain?

#### HEALTH

**1 South Yorkshire Coalfield**  
Communities (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham)  
Population: 700,000  
Problems: youth unemployment, chronic ill health in older people  
Special programmes: most health rehabilitation, specialist support for long-term unemployed, specialist health services for older people

**2 Bradford**  
Population: 450,000  
Problems: high unemployment, low life expectancy, high rates of mental health problems  
Special programmes: specialist support for long-term unemployed, specialist health services for older people

**3 East End of London**  
(Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets)  
Population: 550,000  
Problems: 18% poverty, overcrowding, poor health  
Special programmes: improve job opportunities for disadvantaged, health, particularly mental health services

**4 Community Development**  
Leeds  
Population: 150,000  
Problems: high unemployment, low life expectancy, high rates of mental health problems  
Special programmes: specialist support for long-term unemployed, specialist health services for older people

**5 Glasgow**  
Population: 650,000  
Problems: high unemployment, low life expectancy, high rates of mental health problems  
Special programmes: specialist support for long-term unemployed, specialist health services for older people

**6 Manchester, Salford, Trafford**  
Population: 850,000  
Special programmes: improve mental health services

**7 North Cumbria**  
Population: 300,000  
Special programmes: improve access to health services in rural areas

**8 Northumberland**  
Population: 150,000  
Problems: pockets of severe deprivation  
Special programmes: develop a network of healthy living centres, "virtual" centres for the most isolated rural areas

**9 Plymouth**  
Population: 250,000  
Problems: acute deprivation  
Special programmes: develop new approaches to improving mental health, particularly for children

**10 Sandwell**  
Population: 300,000  
Problems: facing major public health challenges  
Special programmes: community-focused health services

**11 Tyne & Wear**  
Population: 1.1 million  
Problems: seriously deprived areas  
Special programmes: elderly, access to public transport, specialist provision for housing, programme to reduce smoking

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#### EDUCATION

Bids for Education Action Zones:

OA range of organisations (businesses, Local Education Authorities, Training and Enterprise Councils and schools/further education colleges) were invited in January to participate in the Education Action Zones programme.

It is intended that 25 areas will be operational from 1 September, 1999, the first five of which will run from 1 September, 1998.

OA £250,000 per annum government grant will be made, which will be matched by the private sector. Each Education Action Zone will operate for between three and five years.

**EDUCATION** Areas have been chosen because they are:   
O facing acute deprivation   
O have a 25% or more unemployment rate   
O have a high proportion of long-term unemployed   
O have a high proportion of people with chronic conditions alongside physiotherapy, chiropody and arts and health projects, while another in Tower Hamlets has a day nursery, a community cafe, a Bengali outreach project and a health care centre.

Targeting poor areas is not a new idea nor one that has worked well in the past. Joan Higgins, professor of health policy at Manchester University's health services management unit, says in an article in Health Services Journal (April 16) that evaluations of similar projects from the 1960s revealed firstly that an area-based rather than people-based approach only addressed the needs of a small minority, and secondly that "demonstration projects" had little lasting impact.

But this Government will be aware both of past failures and of the acute need to lessen the gap in the health of rich and poor in the country. This is their big project towards greater health equality and they do not mean that it should fail.

**Health** Sarah Boseley

**Health** Action Zones were first mooted by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary in June last year. Three weeks ago, his department named the eleven areas that have put in successful bids to pilot the scheme. They will get substantial investment — £4 million in 1998/99 and £30 million in 1999 — to set up projects.

All will be different, although the underlying cause is fundamentally the same — poverty in the South Yorkshire coalfields of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, it is young people whose job prospects are blighted by pit closures and old people who have chronic sickness who will be the focus. In the London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, the aim will be to reduce the number of under-age pregnancies, which are the highest in the country.

The projects will have been set up by local health authorities and councils: they know local needs. In Luton, the plan is to encourage Asian women to go for cervical smear tests, and to appoint female consultants in a partnership between the NHS and the Asian community on child development.

In Bradford, a new community-based diabetes service is being set up to tackle a disease that is the main cause of blindness and a major cause of coronary heart disease. The idea is that the NHS locally — GPs, hospitals, health authority and community — will work together instead of allowing patients to ricochet around the system. Dobson said that in a Health Action Zone "bureaucratic obstacles... will be removed."

Healthy living centres will be set up in Northumberland. These will vary enormously in size, scope and location, and will act as drop-ins, advice, health, fitness and social centres for the community. The government's Health Of The Nation paper cited two existing examples — one in Newcastle offers fitness programmes for people with chronic conditions alongside physiotherapy, chiropody and arts and health projects, while another in Tower Hamlets has a day nursery, a community cafe, a Bengali outreach project and a health care centre.

Targeting poor areas is not a new idea nor one that has worked well in the past. Joan Higgins, professor of health policy at Manchester University's health services management unit, says in an article in Health Services Journal (April 16) that evaluations of similar projects from the 1960s revealed firstly that an area-based rather than people-based approach only addressed the needs of a small minority, and secondly that "demonstration projects" had little lasting impact.

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Another view of the swinging Sixties 8

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# Finance Guardian

## Travel firm unlocks riches

Nine directors to share £4.5m

Tony May

**N**INE directors of Thomson Travel will share at least £4.5 million for overseeing the flotation of Britain's biggest holiday company, which will be valued at nearly £1.7 billion when it is quoted on the London Stock Exchange next month.

The float is expected to net some £400 million more than originally expected and could prove to be the most popular since Railtrack came to market two years ago. In that case, directors may be in line for even bigger rewards.

Several hundred thousand investors, many lured by the promise of a 10 per cent discount on holidays, have

shown interest in buying the shares, while the 14,000 staff will be granted free options in one of Britain's biggest employee share ownership schemes.

The company prospectus, which was issued yesterday, shows the payments to directors will be made by The Thomson Corporation (TTC), the company's Canadian parent which is keeping all the cash raised from the flotation.

TTC said it might top up the payments to chief executive Paul Brett and executives Mike Frith, Richard Bowden, Doyle, Roger Burnell, Peter Chappelow, Mark Knight, Charles Newbold, Ole Ofstad, and Ian Smith. If it was pleased with progress after flotation.

Mr Brett and five col-



Floating high... Paul Brett (left) and Mike Frith



leagues will also receive bonuses of up to twice their annual salaries — which range from £162,000 up to £380,000 — depending upon profits achieved this year. Mr Knight and Mr Ofstad do not qualify because they have not been with the company long enough. Mr Brett said he was very pleased with the payment and would be subscribing for up to £250,000 of shares.

These payments are expected to anger some staff, according to Balpa, the airline pilots' union, although it was pleased that employees would get shares.

Airline pilots, stewards and travel agents — the group takes in travel agent Lunn Poly and charter airline Britannia — will be granted free share options. Staff will be able to exercise their options after the flota-



tion in May and acquire shares at a fixed price — usually below the current market value. Thomson Travel said an employee would be able to subscribe for shares equivalent in value to 10 per cent of their salary.

Existing TCC shareholders will be able to buy a 20 per cent slice of the new issued share capital.

● The upward pressure on directors' pay packets intensified yesterday when Iceland, the frozen-food retailer, gave three of its four executives increases of averaging more than 45 per cent in their pay and bonus packages, writes Lisa Buckingham.

Remuneration for Malcolm Walker, Iceland's chairman and chief executive, rose by 49 per cent to £493,324 while Andrew Pritchard received a similar percentage, taking the value of his remuneration beyond £254,000. Bernard Leigh pocketed a 45 per cent gain, taking his pay and bonus to £206,000.

Iceland's annual report said the executives benefited from a bonus of 50 per cent of basic salary.

The company's like-for-like sales increased by 4.4 per cent while operating profit was 5 per cent ahead at £64.8 million. Pre-tax profit fell, however, by £6 million to £50.2 million.

### Notebook

## Brown plans to keep hoarding



Edited by Mark Milner

**B**ROWN'S finances are in good shape and seem to get better with every passing month. In Gordon Brown's first Budget, in July, the public sector borrowing requirement for 1997-98 was put at close to £11 billion. By next month the Treasury had revised that down to £2.6 billion and, in the event, the total has failed to top even the £1 billion mark.

All that leaves the £22.7 billion the Government had to borrow in 1998-99 but a seemingly distant memory. City analysts now reckon this year will see government finances in surplus.

Given the performance of the economy, the revenue side of the Government's accounts might be expected to be buoyant. Yet it is the tight control of spending which has consistently kept the PSBR below expectations.

Bring in the politics. Ministers will already be drawing up their plans for the next fiscal year ahead of the summer spending review.

Given the state of the Government's finances, and the growing pressures for more resources for key areas like health, education and social services they will be unwilling to do the hair shirts for a third year.

Mr Brown has already indicated that he will be inclined to listen to those spending departments which have so far followed a disciplined line.

His natural instinct for caution, however, is likely to remain to the forefront. His concern will be that just as he begins to loosen the Treasury's grip on spending, the revenue side of the equation may start to deteriorate.

Though the Bank of England's monetary policy committee is divided over the immediate outlook for the economy, the signs are that the problems which have hit manufacturing industry are spreading to the service sector. The speed with which the Government's finances have improved is remarkable. Mr Brown will not want to see that reversed.

### More sunshine

**T**HOMSON Travel looks to be coming to the market with a fair wind behind it. Yesterday's pricing range is a touch ahead of earlier City expectations, but even at the top end the rating does not look that demanding in relation to the rest of an admittedly limited sector.

The company has already assured itself of substantial retail interest by offering discounts on its holidays to those who buy and keep enough shares in the initial offer. In May and go away, as it were.

The company has already assured itself of substantial retail interest by offering discounts on its holidays to those who buy and keep enough shares in the initial offer. In May and go away, as it were.

Analysts, who marked up the GUS share price by 4p to 89½p last night, still expect the bidder to win the day. The outcome could, however, be closer than had been predicted when GUS pounced.

Some firms indicated they had been waiting for somebody else to take up the gauntlet. Credit Suisse Asset Management said: "There is a big job to be done here in terms of consumer education and who better to do this than someone like Fidelity?"

Analysts said other potential bidders, such as ICI, had been caught waiting for Courtaulds to dismember itself and shake free the jewel in its crown, the coatings business.

Courtaulds had been in the process of splitting itself into three parts in an effort to shake off the dulling impact on its

The expectation that Thomson might soon make the FTSE 100 index could well add to the support. The immediate outlook is scarcely optimistic. Winter holiday bookings will end the season up 14 per cent, and summer bookings are some 17 per cent ahead.

The only caveat for 1998 is that, despite the industry's efforts to get customers to buy their holidays early, late bookings are still important.

Thomson is clearly hoping no one in the industry has a rush of blood to the head on the back of a strong pound and buys up so much capacity that firms are subsequently forced into discounting.

For the longer term, travel remains an industry where growth is expected to outstrip that of the overall economy, though progress can sometimes be a little bumpy.

The structure of the industry may change too, with some experts pointing to greater consolidation. Thomson has the advantage of a well established brand name and has made no secret it would like to build up its business in Europe.

The flotation is unlikely to prove a handicap.

### Bank squabble

**T**HE row over who will get the job of president of the European Central Bank rumbles on, messily. Holland and France are now exchanging threats to veto the other's candidate.

The French, whose late decision to advance the claims of their own central bank governor, Jean-Claude Trichet, to the top job precipitated the row, continue to hint at a possible compromise. That would involve splitting the first ECB presidential term between their man and Holland's Wim Duisenberg.

Tricky. Though the first president could step down before the end of the first eight year term a formal division would be against the Maastricht treaty.

The snag is that French determination to get something out of the situation threatens to push the decision on the ECB president beyond the first weekend in May when heads of government decide which countries will sign up for monetary union.

The message coming from German government circles — big backers of Mr Duisenberg — yesterday was that the issue will be decided in that man's favour and by the beginning of May.

It is to be hoped they are right. Though both Mr Duisenberg and Mr Trichet are regarded as similarly hawkish on inflation — the key qualification for ECB presidency — the struggle between the two is a struggle for the bank's credibility before it has even had a chance to begin operations. For the markets, credibility is very closely allied to independence.

If the heads of government least have decided to decide virtually every issue in relation to monetary union except the presidency of the central bank, the damage already caused would be greatly increased.

The group's acceptance of Akzo's 450p a share offer means that the Polymer products division will still be sold off. The fibres and chemicals operation will be integrated with Akzo's own fibres business.

The Dutch company will then look at how to split off this combined business. Experts reckon, however, that any sale would have to be at a knock-down price because the fibres market is so depressed.

Analysts think a rival bid unlikely — it will make Akzo the largest coatings group in the world. Courtaulds has a substantial presence in the market for marine, yacht, heavy-duty paints and sealants where Akzo is little known.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.5247	Germany 2.9653	Malaysia 9.28	Singapore 2.68
Austria 20.45	Greece 516.34	Malta 0.84	South Africa 8.28
Belgium 61.04	India 66.86	Netherlands 3.3227	Spain 220.22
Canada 2.34	Ireland 1.7728	New Zealand 2.96	Sweden 12.79
Cyprus 0.8562	Israel 6.28	Norway 12.30	Switzerland 2.68
Denmark 11.95	Italy 2.947	Portugal 363.33	Turkey 401.550
Finland 9.07	Japan 1.24	Saudi 1.24	USA 1.00
France 9.90			

Supplied by Reuters (excluding rupee, shekel and mdr)

## Prescott opens new air terminal

**D**EPUTY Prime Minister John Prescott flew into Manchester Airport yesterday to open a £75 million British Airways terminal and give a ringing endorsement to its second runway — once under siege from Swampy and friends and currently under construction, writes David Ward.

The terminal, capable of handling up to six million BA passengers a year, has been funded by the airport with a £5 million contribution from the airline.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, described Manchester as a "very important crossroads" through which the airline routes 1,000 flights a week.

"The terminal is the first in which all BA services have been brought under one roof, and contains a 300-seat roof-top executive lounge that offers the opportunity to look down on less affluent passengers in the departure lounge."

"The second runway is very important, as we know all too well from Swampy," said Mr Prescott, referring to the star protester in last year's campaign against the £172 million scheme.

"He made his point — an expensive one, I'm bound to say. The second runway will increase capacity and ease congestion at peak times. This is the first full-length runway to be built in the UK for 20 years."

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS THOMOND



## Carpenter rerun for the Nationwide

Liz Stuart

**N**ATIONWIDE, Britain's biggest building society, was last night preparing for a rerun of last year's battle to retain its mutual status after carpenter Michael Hardern rallied enough support to stand for election to the board as a conversion candidate.

His ticket of immediate privatisation and windfall payouts for 4.5 million qualifying members brought a fierce response.

Paul Atkinson, a Nationwide spokesman, said: "This time it is very clear, a vote for him at the annual general meeting [on July 23] is a vote for conversion. We are putting together a very comprehensive package to get our message across."

Despite a resounding defeat last July, when 70 per cent of members voted against conversion to a bank, former builder Mr Hardern has achieved the 50 nominations he needed to stand for the board.

Last year it cost the society in excess of £1 million to retain its mutual status. This year Mr Hardern's proposition is potentially even more attractive: under his scheme, members would be able to top up accounts retrospectively to qualify for cash or shares.

One industry expert said:

"It is a threat Nationwide must take very seriously. Chances are the candidates will be defeated this time, but every time they stand they gain more credence."

But Mr Thomas, banking analyst at SBC Warburg, said carpentering pretenders to building society boards had become figures of ridicule. "Their credibility is zero. They do not even understand how the finances of a building society work," he said.

Following Mr Hardern's offensive last year, Nationwide built defences against future carpentering by forcing new members to sign away rights to flotation windfalls, but about 700,000 speculators squeezed under the door and would be expected to vote in his favour.

Brian Davis, Nationwide chief executive, dismisses the threat. He said: "What we said last year would happen has happened. Yes, the customers of converted societies have had a hand-out, but at the expense of prices. The Halifax's mortgage rate is 8.7 per cent, whereas our standard variable rate is 8.1 per cent."

Also standing for the Nationwide board will be financial recruitment consultant Andrew Muir, who is seeking a £500 windfall dividend for all qualifying members and claims this can be funded from reserves without flotation.

## Argos seeks to rally the big hitters

Lisa Buckingham  
City Editor

**A**RGOS, the catalogue retail company facing a hostile £1.5 billion bid from GUS, last night rallied some of its largest shareholders to stage a defiant fight for independence.

One of the company's biggest investors said: "We have not swung behind GUS. I don't regard this bid as generous... GUS has created an illusion of generosity."

Strong support from big names on the embattled company's share register undermined suggestions at the weekend that GUS had all but

secured victory. Argos claimed a large majority still have to make up their minds.

The takeover battle will close on Friday. Argos, whose share price sagged 4½p to 69½p, indicating an assumption among traders that it was facing defeat, began a last minute round of meetings with major shareholders such as Schroders Investments, which holds a 15 per cent stake, and Prudential with 7 per cent.

Other big investors whose thinking is crucial to the outcome are Baillie Gifford with 7 per cent, Mercury Asset Management, Legal & General, and Barclays Global Investors. Many have almost no

shares in GUS so are more likely to drive a hard bargain on price than if they also held a stake in the bidder — in which case they would benefit from a lower offer.

Argos argued its case for independence with the disclosure that sales during the critical Easter holiday period had beaten internal forecasts. Sales in the 15 weeks to April 11 had risen by 11.8 per cent overall and by 5.8 per cent on a like-for-like basis, which excludes new store openings.

Over the three-week Easter period, underlying sales were 7.3 per cent higher than a year ago.

GUS is offering 650p a share for Argos, whose share price had dropped as low as 599p at the start of 1998 after a high of 769p early last year. One fund manager said: "The rather artificial fall in the Argos share price late last year has helped give the impression that GUS is paying a decent price."

"I can't believe Argos is worth less to a bidder at the end of the first quarter than it was in the market last year, and I would be dumbfounded if a majority of shareholders has already swung behind GUS."

Analysts, who marked up the GUS share price by 4p to 89½p last night, still expect the bidder to win the day. The outcome could, however, be closer than had been predicted when GUS pounced.

## Fidelity switches to the Oeic

Unit trusts to be converted into new open-ended investment

Rupert Jones and  
Liz Stuart

**I**T'S been lumbered with one of the least attractive monikers around but the Oeic — open-ended investment company — could soon become a household name.

Fidelity Investments, part of the world's largest fund management group, yesterday announced plans to convert 20 of its unit trusts into this new type of investment vehicle.

Oeics (pronounced "oiks")

have been described as a hybrid of unit trusts and investment trusts, combining some of the best aspects of both. They were introduced by the previous government but have not exactly set the investment world alight.

Around half-a-dozen fund management groups have launched Oeics so far, including Threadneedle, Save & Prosper and Murray Johnson, though several more plan to do so.

Fidelity's decision to convert 20 of its trusts into a £5.6 billion Oeic could be the

boost the new scheme needs, and could also signal the end for the unit trust as we know it.

"When a firm the size of Fidelity takes such a stance, other companies are going to sit up and look very carefully at the likely trend," said Anne McMeekin at the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF). Fidelity's move was likely to "herald an industry move across [to Oeics] on an accelerated basis."

Oeics were devised as a means of providing a simpler way for the public to buy into collective investment schemes. They are seen as easier to understand than unit trusts and therefore per-

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Racing

# Aintree dismisses Pitman claims

Tony Paley

RACING was quick to leap to the defence of Aintree yesterday following the publication of a leaked document in which trainer Jenny Pitman stated that this year's Grand National had been run on ground she considered "dangerous".

This year's running of the race had caused considerable controversy following the deaths of three horses and Mrs Pitman, who has won the world's most famous steeplechase twice with Corbiere

and Royal Athlete, is thought to be unhappy at the leaking of her alleged remarks, which were intended solely for the Jockey Club and Aintree as part of an official investigation into the deaths.

Mrs Pitman claims in the document that not enough had been done to repair the damage done to the course by two days of racing before the Grand National.

She said: "We cannot defend ourselves to the general public, to our owners, our horses, or live with our consciences if we ever allow horses to race in such circumstances again."

The trainer made her worries known to Aintree managing director Charles Barnett on the morning of the race after her horse Nahthen Lad, who was eventually pulled up at the 11th in the race itself, had worked on the track.

She then walked the course with Nahthen Lad's jockey Rodney Farrant and stated in the report: "It took us one and a half hours to walk the Grand National course to find a safe route for our horse to take."

Barnett confirmed yesterday that he had spoken to the trainer but said 80 ground staff had carried out repair work before the start of the day's racing.

The Jockey Club's public relations officer John Maxse said: "The course was passed over for racing by the racecourse stewards. The Jockey Club's course inspector, Roy Barry, after the first race on the Mildmay Course, inspected the National course to check that the repair work had been completed successfully. He was satisfied that it had been."

Barnett confirmed yesterday that he had spoken to the trainer but said 80 ground staff had carried out repair work before the start of the day's racing.

## Rain threat to Classic Trial

THE important Thresher Classic Trial and Gordon Richards Stakes scheduled to be run on the Flat on Sandown's mixed Whitbread card on Saturday may have to be abandoned if there is more rain this week, writes Tony Paley.

Andrew Cooper, clerk of the course, said: "We have had three inches of rain during April which has left the Flat course at saturation point. We could have an all jumping card or one with two five furlong races because the sprint track may be usable."

Cool Dawn, the Gold Cup winner, is 4-1 with a run with Coral to follow up his Cheltenham win in the race.

Whitbread, Robert Alner, the gelding's trainer, has expressed doubts about running both Cool Dawn and Racing Post Chase victor Super Tactics due to the unsuitably soft going.

John O'Shea's Go Ballistic heads the 26 entries on 11st 10lb after the expected defections of Sunny Bay, The Grey Monk and Belmont King at yesterday's five-day stage.

Tomorrow's meeting at Redcar is in doubt following the recent heavy rain but officials, who plan to inspect the course at 8.30am today, are reportedly not hopeful as there are waterlogged patches on the track.

The Jockey Club's public relations officer John Maxse said: "The course was passed over for racing by the racecourse stewards. The Jockey Club's course inspector, Roy Barry, after the first race on the Mildmay Course, inspected the National course to check that the repair work had been completed successfully. He was satisfied that it had been."

Barnett confirmed yesterday that he had spoken to the trainer but said 80 ground staff had carried out repair work before the start of the day's racing.

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Stretching out... Boris Becker on his way to a three-set, first-round win in Monte Carlo yesterday

Tennis

# Rusedski faces inspired Becker

GREG RUSEDSKI will have to overcome Boris Becker to progress in the Monte Carlo Open after the German, three times a finalist here, fought back to secure a second-round place by beating Jan Siemerink yesterday.

While Rusedski enjoyed a bye in the first round, Becker opened tentatively before digging deep to win 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 against the Dutchman, who had to qualify for this Super 9 event.

Becker, who is likely to meet the British No. 1 tomorrow, enjoyed the vast court experience even though he has never won a major title on the surface. "With the sun shining on this centre court," he said, "it is inspiring to play tennis. This is what we practise for."

Rusedski, third seed, has lost both his previous matches with Becker, the first a five-set marathon in the 1996 Australian Open, the other by 6-4, 6-4 in Stuttgart the same year.

Another German, Nicolas Pietrangeli, staged the first upset of the week, overwhelming the ninth-seeded Spaniard Felix Mantilla 6-1, 6-4. Tim Henman, 11th seed, is due to play his first-round match today, taking on a 21-year-old Spanish qualifier, Galo Blanco.

## Pontefract jackpot card with form guide

TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.15 Bee Health Boy	Monk Park
2.30 Ocho	Ocho
2.40 Tarn	Tarn
3.20 High-Blue (pb)	High-Blue
4.20 Magic Mile	Magic Mile
4.30 Highland Fleece	Highland Fleece
4.50 South Shobens	South Shobens

TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
4.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP	2m 11yds £3,493 (5 declared)
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Becker through to face Rusedski, page 13  
Jockey Club defends Aintree, page 13

Africans dominate Boston Marathon, page 14  
Champions power to three-day win, page 15

# SportsGuardian



## Hoddle's message to the faithful

**G**LENN HODDLE is leaving nothing to chance in his build-up to the World Cup, writes David Lopez.

Yesterday the England coach revealed that three-quarters of his squad — among them Arsenal's Ian Wright, left, watching the training at Walsham Abbey for tomorrow's friendly against Portugal — have had consultations with his faith healer Eileen Drewery.

The middle-aged grandmother, who is now part of the backroom staff, suggested that, should things go pear-shaped in France, it will not be for want of belief.

"I don't know if the players understand what she's doing," Hoddle said, "but she saved two careers when I was at Swindon. People who ridicule this sort of thing have got closed minds. It's got nothing to do with religion. It's something that has been around for thousands of years and other countries are way ahead of us."

PHOTOGRAPH: BEN RADFORD

## Fear over flood of Premiership imports

Ian Ross on the PFA's opposition to more non-European Union players in England

**E**NGLISH football could become a dumping ground for low-grade foreign players if work permit regulations are relaxed this summer.

The Premier League is pushing for a change in the legislation which controls the flow of non-European Union players into England. If it should win Whitehall approval, every club in the Premiership would be entitled to a maximum of three players

from outside the European Union.

The Premier League, with the backing of the Football Association, has been discussing the matter with the Government and a meeting of top-level officials will be held in London at the end of the season.

Liverpool are one club relying on a change in legislation. Under current rules non-EU players must play in 75 per cent of fixtures for which they are available throughout the

season. The American international goalkeeper Brad Friedel and the Czech Republic midfielder Patrik Berger have not played enough games this season to earn work permits to play at Anfield after this summer.

Crystal Palace's Serb Sasa Curcic has married an English girl and does not need a work permit and after five years residence players can apply for dual nationality, a route being undertaken by Chelsea's Russian goalkeeper Dmitri Kharike.

To earn a work permit initially a player from outside the EU must also have represented his country at senior

level in 75 per cent of national fixtures in the two years before moving to England.

But the Premier League's attempt to cut a swath through what it considers to be unnecessary red tape will be opposed by the Professional Footballers' Association which believes that a relaxation of the rules could cause untold damage to

English football at both grassroots and professional levels.

"Certain proposals are due to be made but our position is that we feel there is a case for maintaining the criteria in their current form as opposed to relaxing them," said the PFA's deputy chief executive Brendan Batson.

"As far as I am aware we are now sucking in more for-

eign players than any other country. There is a need to make sure it doesn't reach such an extent that it dilutes our domestic talent."

Scotland already employs a quota system but it is run on a national basis and 20 non-EU players are currently allowed work permits. In England the rules currently in place are widely regarded as unwieldy, complex and restrictive by Premier and Football League clubs.

In an attempt to stop clubs signing players from footballing outposts who have an international pedigree but who may struggle to adapt to life in this country, the Govern-

ment insists that non-EU players are given contracts which place them among their club's highest wage earners.

"These players should make a distinct impact on the game — they can't do that in the reserves," said Batson. "It is obvious that the Premier League is now very attractive to foreign players whether they are from the EU or require work permits," he added.

The Premier League's stance will win approval in boardrooms throughout the country.

"We would be quite happy to see a quota system intro-

duced; we would certainly favour it as being fairer to everyone," said the Everton secretary Michael Dunford yesterday.

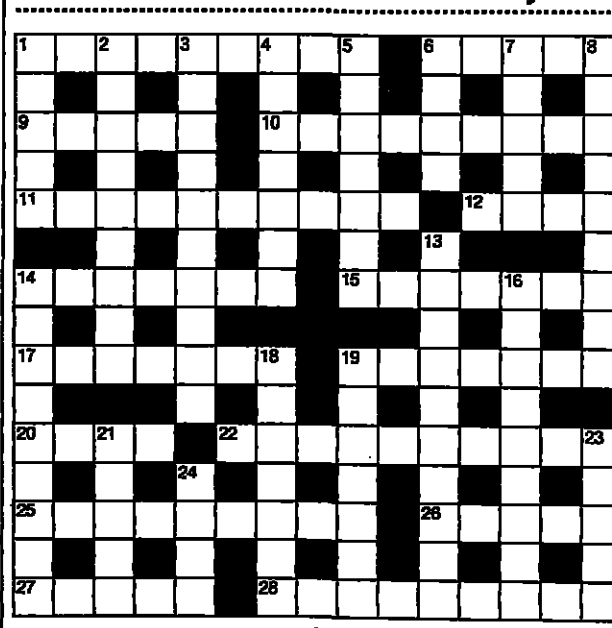
Several players have already been forced out of English football after failing to satisfy the criteria.

Among those to have fallen foul of the legislation are Leeds United's South African striker Phil Masinga, Liverpool's Hungarian midfielder Istvan Kozma, Aston Villa's Nigerian midfielder Nii Lamptey and the Everton pair, the Nigerian forward Daniel Amokachi and the Switzerland defender Marc Hotzinger.

**'There is a need to make sure it doesn't reach such an extent that it dilutes domestic talent'**

### Guardian Crossword No 21,254

Set by Fawley



**Across**

1 Good youngster, finally seen in action, became cheerful (5)  
6 Lowers the tone in an island resort (5)  
9 One enthusiast returned to tour army's original canteen (5)  
10,11 Utterly defeat, by an innings — appreciating one ready to shoot bowler? (5,4,1,6,3)  
12,13 Rejected going to the Midlands (4,2,5)  
14 Minimising pollution without difficulty (7)  
15 Losing the scent, a doctor associated with Fleming intends to backtrack (7)  
17 Sheltered areas, not hot? (7)  
19 Boast return of disreputable club is knocked on the head (7)  
20 See 3

**Down**

1,6 down Rich food cooked in can week ago? Wife's away! (5,4)  
2 A channel swimmer goes under a lot — sadly, in poor condition (2,1,3,3)  
3,20 Last chance before schooner should be abandoned, if not sunk? (8-2,4)  
4 Yank led nothing — how to achieve maximum exposure? (7)  
5 Couturier, a graduate, provided window display (7)  
6 See 1 down  
7 Cringe, about to tuck into some plonk? (5)  
8 Curt assistant rapidly produced script (8)  
13 See 12  
14 Ships function properly — result of practical expertise (9)  
16 Feeling 2 down, it's handy I'm so adaptable (8)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,253**

18 Use cash, keeping it up, given regular allowance (7)  
19 Mostly delicate manoeuvres in defence structure (7)  
21 Statement in support of arms on display? (5)  
24,25 Emergency signal extremely easy to cope with? (4,5)

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**NEWSPAPER RECYCLING**

Recycled paper used in 50% of the paper material for UK newspapers and magazines from 1st July 1997.



Paul Weaver

### Take heart and take yourself seriously

**T**HERE is a nasty notion that death begins at 40, which Nick Faldo's grim countenance after a 12-over-par 83 on the final day of the MCI Heritage Classic did little to dispel.

Faldo has always borne a resemblance to the film actor Harrison Ford but latterly he has looked more like the star of The Fugitive than of Star Wars.

His six majors place him 10th in the pantheon and he has won more money than you could shake a mashie niblick at. But he is currently finding it impossible to sink a putt, let alone win a pot.

His final round at Hilton Head in South Carolina left him alone in last place on 300, five shots behind his nearest rival. It was his highest round in 219 PGA Tour events.

He spent 45 strokes over the first nine; the highlight was when he achieved par on holes 10-14. There were nine pars, seven bogeys, a double bogey and a treble bogey, and from five greenside bunkers he got up and down only once. "Sorry, I'm a little out of it right now" was all he said.

On the US Tour the man you would once have chosen to putt for your life is ranked 130th among putters and 132nd for sand saves. He has not won a tournament since his victory in the LA Nissan Open 14 months ago and he missed an 18-inch tiddler in the recent Masters to miss the cut for the second successive year. In seven US events this year his name has not appeared on the leaderboard since his best finish was joint 18th in the Players Championship.

Finished? Possibly. But I doubt it.

Faldo may have lost his feel around the greens and there is a theory that the Burners, Berthas, Whales and other big-headed drivers are making him look ordinary from the tee. But he should take heart from the 68-year-old Jack Nicklaus, who was joint sixth

in the Masters. Nicklaus won the 1986 Masters when he was 46; Mark O'Meara won this year's at 41. The American Julius Borge won the 1983 US PGA Championship at 48, which makes him the oldest post-war major champion, and Hale Irwin (1990 US Open at 45), Lee Trevino (1984 U.S. Open at 44), Ben Crenshaw (1983 Masters at 43) and Ray Floyd (1986 US Open at 43) have all shown there is hope for the fortysomethings.

Faldo, throughout his travels, retains mostly an expression of death-mask impassivity, the affected indifference you see on the face of a seated snooker player while his opponent contemplates a century break.

This multimillionaire could choose to be as lazy as a seal in the gym or hauling a bucket of balls off to the practice tees. But he has found success with David Leadbetter but there are those who suspect he would now run better Lead-free.

**T**HIS is why, even in his darkest hour, he remains one of the world's outstanding sportsmen and why even those who have no time for the game retain a special awe for the man.

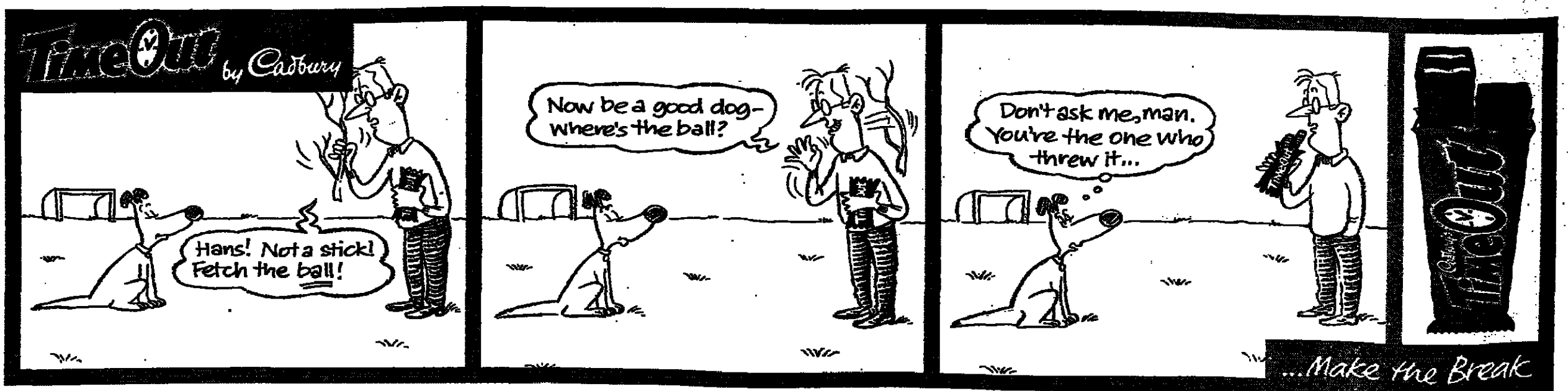
My favourite Faldo remark came when he won the Millon Dollar Challenge in Bophuth-

atswana some years ago. "I asked my wife if she wanted a Versace dress, diamonds or pearls and she said no. When I asked her what she did want she said a divorce, but I told her I wasn't intending to spend that much."

It was not only British golf which wore a sorry countenance at the weekend. So did cricket and football. The England cricket team are losing and without a captain. The popular choice appears to be Alec Stewart, which would probably finish off the one world-class player in the side.

Meanwhile the England football manager Glenn Hoddle wants to model his World Cup strategy on Arsenal and Arsène Wenger, who is keen on agility exercises and on players eating their greens. But the real reason why Arsenal are about to win the championship has more to do with Bergkamp, Vieira, Petit and Overmars, none of whom will be available to Hoddle in France. The broccoli is not doing much for Ian Wright.

The saddest news of all at the weekend was the death of Denis Howell, the first and best minister of sport. He was taken seriously because he took himself seriously. It is a lesson the likeable but fundamentally frivolous Tony Banks should heed. Even in defeat nobody could call Faldo frivolous.



صلى الله عليه وسلم

Thursday April 22 1998

Murdoch

Inside

5